

Assisted dying pros and cons

Assisted dying or as it is medically termed as “euthanasia”, is when doctors as per the wishes of the patient assist in suicide. This involves either withdrawing life support or refraining from operating on a terminally ill patient allowing them to pass peacefully without prolonged suffering. While some countries have legalized euthanasia to support one’s right to die, others such as India, have abolished the practice due to the ethical implications.

Assisted dying has its advantages and disadvantages. One of the positives is the patient passing away without prolonged suffering. Terminally ill patients remain on numerous medications, trying various surgeries which results in excruciating pain. Assisted dying allows them to make a decision for themselves, opening up an option for them to pass peacefully, ending their life on their terms.

Another benefit of the practice is the respect for their right to life which includes right to die. It gives the individual the power to make decisions about their life including the ones that determine how and when they will die.

The patient isn’t always the only one suffering, the emotional burden of the family is significantly reduced if the individual passes without much suffering in front of their loved ones. It provides the family an opportunity to gain closure and say their goodbye’s, a scenario that might not be possible if the patient is kept on life support due to the uncertainty of their body giving up.

Assisted dying although having its positives, has a set of negatives as well. First and foremost, the ethical implications of this practice in medicine. Doctors and nurses provide life and heal the injured, it goes against their ethics to deliberately take a life, even if it was of a terminally ill patient.

The right to life awards each individual with dignity and respect and euthanasia introduces this notion that those diagnosed with terminally ill conditions or disabilities or diseases with no cure should be given up on for their life isn’t worth saving.

Another grey area is coercion disguised as consent. Some individuals might be pressured into consenting for euthanasia due to the emotional and financial family burden or might be forced into it by those wanting it for immoral illegal reasons such as inheritance.

Another downside of euthanasia is the hope of recovery. There have been cases where individuals who aren’t responding to any medication, do survive through an alternate procedure. Euthanasia takes away the possibility of recovery.

Assisted dying has positives and negatives, ethical and medical implication and the opinion varies from individual to individual. While it allows patients to pass away without further suffering, it takes away the possibility of recovery. Although it allows family to obtain closure, it may pressure the individual to die to help the family financially, viewing themselves as a burden.