

Having hospital palliative care doesn't impact Tx intensity

September 27 2018



(HealthDay)—For adult patients in the intensive care unit (ICU), the

availability of hospital-based palliative care is not associated with in-hospital treatment intensity, according to a study published in the September issue of the *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*.

May Hua, M.D., from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, and colleagues conducted a retrospective study of adult ICU patients to examine the correlation between availability of hospital-based [palliative care](#) and treatment intensity. Data were included for 1,025,503 ICU patients in 151 hospitals.

The researchers found that 79.5 percent of the patients received care in a [hospital](#) with a palliative care program. Patients in hospitals with and without palliative care programs had a similar length of stay, with a statistically significant, but not clinically meaningful, difference (six versus six days; adjusted rate ratio, 1.04; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.03 to 1.05; P

"Currently, the measurable benefit of palliative care programs for critically ill [patients](#) may be the increased use of hospice facilities, as opposed to decreased health [care](#) use during an ICU-associated hospitalization," the authors write.

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Citation: Having hospital palliative care doesn't impact Tx intensity (2018, September 27) retrieved 30 April 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-09-hospital-palliative-doesnt-impact-tx.html>

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