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Through the introduction of palliative care, quality of life has improved and the course of illness has

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Palliative care should be provided from the point of diagnosis and beyond death. However, within the South African context, palliative care is poorly understood. Many practitioners believe it to be synonymous with the end of life care or ‘giving up’ and are thus reluctant to refer early to the team. Through our work, we have come to realize that this misunderstanding is common and is not specific to any discipline. In addition to this, palliative care is not a recognized specialty in South Africa hence there are limited numbers of health professionals trained in palliative care. As they cannot specialize in the field, there are no government posts. Currently, almost all palliative care services are offered by the not-for-profit / non-governmental sectors (NPO/NGO). The authors have compiled a retrospective case study analysis of their patient base. They have explored

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