

We speak too often about dignity. We defend it and teach it. However...

The concept of dignity was always one of the central aspects of medicine. To think about the modern concept of dignity - in its many different aspects - is an imperative of modern medicine. It brings us closer to those who suffer, closer to the whole and unique person. Though these approaches may often be fragmented, they nevertheless
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Despite the deep roots of the concept of dignity in medical practice - a value considered inherent to any health professional - the historical and investigational truth taught us that dignity was so essential and fundamental to the human person. This concept has become an integral part of human beings and societies since ancient times, integrating its lives, victories and sufferings. However, despite being an inalienable quality of every human being - belonging to every person and characterizing it as such - dignity was also foreign to our individual and collective consciousness.

In recent decades, research on dignity - whether sociological, philosophical or medical - has tried to establish a new, clearer and
REMFWLYH GH¿QLWLRQ 7KLV FODULW\ RI XQGHUVWDQGLQJ RI KXPDLW\ GLJQLW\ offers us a way to understand a little more about ourselves and how we can help those we serve.

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Julião, M., Oliveira, F., Nunes, B., Vaz Carneiro, A., & Barbosa, A. Serrão, D. (2009). A dignidade na derradeira página do livro da vida. *Journal of Palliative Medicine* 17(6), 688-695.