

Qualitative Analysis of Third Year Medical Student's Reflections on Loss

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Medical students face professional experiences of death and loss during their formative training years. Personal experiences of death and loss are unique to each individual student. Surprisingly little is known about how medical students conceptualize loss or death. We sought to explore the responses of third year medical students to a self-reflection exercise focused on loss. We conducted a qualitative analysis of 127 third year medical school students responses to identify common and uncommon themes and language used by medical of lossuse~~ed~~ used ncUag~~ed~~ dddudenhloss cs csA~~sa~~

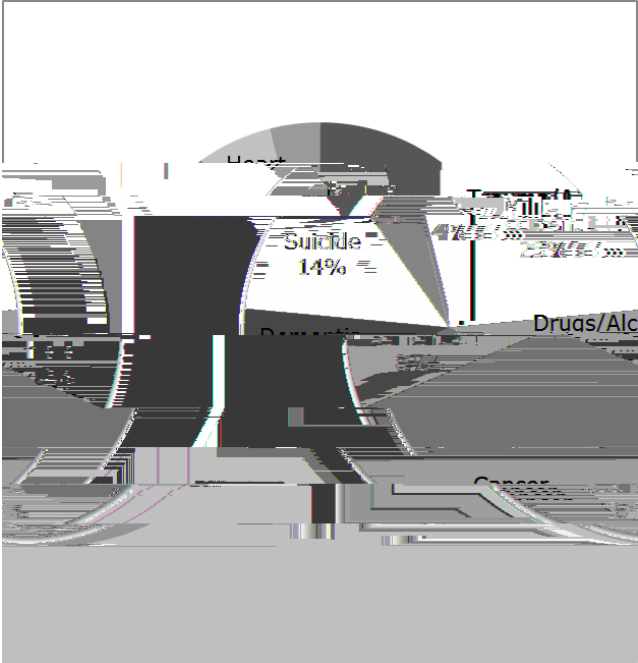


Figure 1: Themes Related to Mode of Death.

The descriptions of mode of death often included medical jargon

Reflections also referenced positive emotions including joy and love in the face of loss. These accounts typically related lives well lived, shared experiences and legacy of loved ones.

"In the end it was a happy story, there was life to be celebrated. We did not attend the funeral of a hermit who met his unforeseen and

