

**Department of Anesthesiology and  
Critical Care Medicine  
Hadassah Medical Center**



**Ethicus II  
Investigator meeting  
March 20, 2018  
Brussels**

**Charles L. Sprung MD**

# End of Life Practices in ICUs Around the World

## Ethicus II

- Study started 1.9.2015 and ended 30.9.2016.
- Enrolled patients- 12857 patients from 199 ICUs in 36 countries.
- Comparison study- 22 of the original 37 Ethicus I ICUs (in 14 rather than the original 17 countries) participated.
- The same definitions and methodologies were used.
- All consecutive adult patients admitted to ICU who died or had life-saving therapy limitations were prospectively studied.
- Patients were followed until discharge from ICU, death or 2 months from the decision to limit therapy.

# Ethicus II Study

- Patient enrollment ended September 30, 2016.
- All centers sent their final data by April 1, 2017.
- Since that time Dr. Baras has been working on the database to prepare analyses for presentations and manuscripts.
- For the comparison with ETHICUS I there was a need to rename and recode the variables and the answers to match the data.
  - A painful and time consuming process.
- Checking the data file for accuracy and completeness.
  - The size of the file for the 199 sites is 12857 patients.
  - The number of original variables = 154.
- The process of building new variables (e.g. eold) and grouping of many others required decisions and a lot of work.

# Ethicus II Study

- The first draft of the comparison paper was sent to investigators (last week) who responded that they wanted to contribute to this manuscript. Priority will be given to investigators and centers participating in Ethicus I and II and contributions.
- The final list of investigator responses for contributions to the many potential manuscripts was also sent last week. PIs who find mistakes on the list should send corrections to Charlie Sprung along with your center name and number.
- The list of 199 centers and investigators for the appendix was also sent. PIs should check their institution's spelling and that all their investigators and mentees appear on the list. Send corrections and additions to Charlie Sprung with your center name and number.

# Ethicus II Study

- Dr. Baras has done a tremendous job setting up the database for analyses and starting the analyses.
- We stated that all country presentations will only occur after the presentation of the main data (comparison and 199 center papers) and their publication. This policy will continue.
- Unfortunately as the time for the first 2 manuscripts preparation has taken so long and we want to produce more papers quickly, we will make the database available to lead authors who have statisticians who can perform the necessary analyses for their manuscripts.

# Ethicus II Study

- Lead authors who can arrange analyses and who have started their manuscripts should contact Charlie Sprung.
- We will make the database available to the lead authors who will perform the necessary analyses for their manuscripts. The database should remain confidential and shown only to people that are required for the work and have been approved by Charlie Sprung.
- We will help with any information required to perform the tasks and with the final potential author list for each paper.
- Draft manuscripts with an introduction, methods and results with tables and figures should be sent to potential authors asking them to state what parts of the paper they would like to contribute to as we did for the comparison paper.

# Ethicus II- Manuscripts to be written

## Some will have 2 parts including comparisons

1. Comparison paper of Ethicus I vs. II
2. Analysis of all the Ethicus II patients from 199 centers from 36 countries
3. Communication of end-of-life decisions
4. The importance of religious affiliation and culture on end-of-life decisions
5. Nurse involvement in end-of-life decision making
6. SDP patients- Relieving suffering or intentionally hastening death
7. Reasons, considerations, difficulties and documentation of end-of-life decisions
8. The impact of regional culture on end-of-life decision making
9. End of life decisions among the old vs young
10. Factors associated with early limitations
11. Advanced directives and power of attorney
12. Time to death- early ( $\leq 48$  or 72 hours) or late ( $>48$  or 72 hours)
13. Differences in End of Life Practices in Cancer versus Non-Cancer patients
14. Differences in decisions to withhold /withdraw life-sustaining treatments according to the GNI
15. Admission criteria

# Ethicus II- Manuscripts to be written

16. New paper- Impact of comorbidities, age and country/continent on decision making and delaying decisions for withholding or withdrawing in dying patients.

- Ignacio Martin-Loeches will lead this paper
- Anyone interested in participating should write Charlie Sprung with a cc to Ignacio (drmartinloeches@gmail.com)



# Ethicus II- Presentations

- The first presentation occurred at the ESICM meeting in Vienna on 27.9.2017.
- Two posters will be presented March 20, 2018 in Brussels.

# Ethicus II- Website user Survey

- An Internet questionnaire on the use & user friendliness was distributed anonymously.
- 134/364 (37%) investigators responded.
- How do you rate overall user-friendliness of website:

Very good	18	17%
Good	54	52%
Acceptable	22	21%
Poor	7	7%
Very poor	2	2%
Total Answered	103	
No answer/not applicable	31	

# Ethicus II- Website user Survey

- How do you rate the data entry system through the website?

Very good	19	17%
Good	54	49%
Acceptable	28	25%
Poor	7	6%
Very poor	2	2%
Total Answered	110	
No answer/not applicable	43	

- Comments on how we should proceed?

# Ethicus II Study

- Thank you to all investigators and mentees for all of their hard work.
- Special thanks to  
Dr. Alex Avidan  
Dr. Veronica de la Guardia  
Dr. Mario Baras  
in the Coordinating Center

# Ethicus II Study

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- Questions or comments?

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# Ethicus II

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