State of the Science: Update in Hospice and Palliative Care (103)

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Objectives

- Summarize selected important, peer-reviewed articles from the last year.
- Critique the methodologies and understand the conclusions of these articles.
- Determine if the findings are relevant to the patients for whom attendees care.

The objective of this session is to review journal articles published during the last year with the highest potential for impact on the field of hospice and palliative medicine. A hand search of leading journals highly relevant to the practice of hospice and palliative care was supplemented with a search of evidence-based reviews, a targeted keyword search, and conversations with experts in the disciplines of medicine, nursing, and social work. Journal articles were reviewed for both study quality and potential for immediate impact on the field of hospice and palliative care. There was a selection bias against descriptive studies, pilot studies, preclinical studies, retrospective studies, open-label trials, case series, instrument validation studies, and confirmatory analyses.