

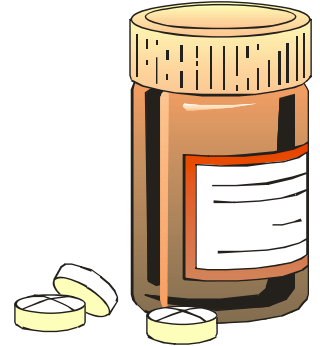
# Euthanasia

## WORDS

- **antibiotics** = drugs and medicine that are used to kill bacteria and cure infections
- **appear** = to come up, start
- **based on** = depending on
- **battle** = fight
- **brain damage** = damage to a person's brain caused by an accident or illness
- **case** = situation
- **century** = a hundred years
- **chemotherapy** = treatment you get when you suffer from cancer
- **court** = the place where a trial is held; there is a judge and a jury that decide if a person is guilty or not
- **emerge** = appear, come up
- **especially** = above all
- **feeding tube** = a thin pipe through which a patient gets food
- **incurable** = deadly
- **issue** = topic, problem
- **legal** = allowed in a country or allowed in court
- **life supporting** = to help you survive
- **morphine** = a powerful drug used to stop pain and make people calm down
- **painless** = without pain
- **practice** = carry out, perform
- **promote** = to be for something
- **remove** = take away
- **succeed in** = to reach what you want
- **suffer** = to feel pain
- **survive** = to live on
- **treatment** = something that is done to help and cure an ill person
- **will** = a document that you have written and says what you want
- **worthy** = here: to deserve to stay alive

Euthanasia comes from the Greek language and means „good death“. Another word for euthanasia is “mercy killing”. It is the end of an ill person's life in a **painless** way.

In the past years there has been much discussion about euthanasia all over the world. In some countries, like Switzerland, Belgium or the Netherlands certain types of euthanasia are **legal**. In other countries, where euthanasia is **illegal**, **courts** do not punish people who **practice** it.



There are two main types of euthanasia.

- *Active euthanasia* – A doctor or a nurse gives an ill patient medicine that leads to their death.
- *Passive euthanasia* – A patient does not get the medicine or **treatment** that they need in order to stay alive.

In some **cases life supporting** machines are turned off and patients die. Sometimes it is decided not to give patients food any more. In other cases **antibiotics, chemotherapy** or giving someone **morphine** may lead to their death.

But who decides if and when euthanasia should be carried out. Sometimes the relatives of an **incurably** ill person make the decision, **based on** what they think the patient wants. In other cases, a patient may have written down a **will** that says they want to have machines turned off if there is no hope.

Euthanasia has become a much-discussed **issue** today because medicine has become much better. People live longer and doctors can sometimes keep people alive for a long time with the help of machines.

Euthanasia groups **appeared** for the first time in England and America in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the Second World War the Nazis in Germany had their own euthanasia program. They let people die who were not **worthy** and healthy enough to **survive, especially** children and older people.

Many groups that **promote** the right to die have **emerged** in the second part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In the recent case of Terri Schiavo, a woman from Florida who **suffered** from **brain damage** and had been in a kind of coma since 1990, her husband **succeeded** in getting her **feeding tube removed**. Terry's parents fought a **legal battle** in court to make the doctors put the tube back in again but they lost. In 2005 Schiavo died, two weeks after the feeding tube had been removed.



Terry Schiavo

**WORDS**

- **argue** = say
- **battle** = fight
- **case** = situation
- **cure** = to make healthy
- **cycle** = events that happen again and again, in the same order
- **emotional** = relating to your feelings
- **even though** = while
- **forbid** = not allow
- **immoral** = morally wrong; behavior that is not accepted by people
- **interfere** = to get in the way of something
- **oath** = a formal promise
- **overcrowded** = with too many people
- **physical** = related to the body
- **practice** = carry out, perform
- **rebirth** = to be born again
- **regard** = look upon as
- **swear - swore - sworn** = to promise officially
- **view** = opinion

**REASONS FOR EUTHANASIA**

- Everyone has a right to decide when their life should end.
- If the quality of life has become so bad, a person may feel too much **physical** or **emotional** pain.
- Today's hospitals are **overcrowded** and have too many patients. Some **argue** that they should let those die that do not have a chance of living on. In that way there could be more room for patients with diseases that can be **cured**.

**REASONS AGAINST EUTHANASIA**

- Doctors have a problem with euthanasia because they have **sworn** an **oath** that does not allow them to take part in the killing of people.
- Sometimes it is not clear if an ill person really wants to die. Euthanasia should only take place if someone really wants it or if they understand how ill they are.

**EUTHANASIA AND RELIGION**

Many religions think that euthanasia is **immoral**. Some religions **regard** it as a type of murder.

- The official Roman Catholic Church is against euthanasia and says it is a crime. Protestants, on the other side, take a more liberal **view**.
- Hindus think that, **even though** helping a person end a painful life may be good, it **interferes** with the **cycle** of death and **rebirth**.
- In Islam all forms of euthanasia are **forbidden**.
- In Japan more than half of all Shintoists think that you should be allowed to help a person die if they ask for it.

