“YOU MUST DEMAND FROM YOURSELVES, EVEN IF OTHERS DO NOT DEMAND FROM YOU”

John Paul II

The XXIII Scientific Conference of Palliative Care was held on 17 - 19 January 2019 in Częstochowa. The conference was organized by the Palliative Care Association in Częstochowa - it is a well-known and prestigious conference in Poland. During the conference, lectures were delivered by the best-known specialists.

Over 350 people took part in the conference, including people from several dozens of hospices in Poland.

The conference took place in a historic place. The Jasna Góra Monastery is a famous Polish shrine to the Virgin Mary and one of the country's places of pilgrimage. The image of the Black Madonna Of Czestochowa also known as Our Lady of Czestochowa, to which miraculous powers are attributed, is one of Jasna Góra's most precious treasures.
Jasna Góra Monastery was founded in 1382 by Pauline monks who came from Hungary at the invitation of Władysław, Duke of Opole. The monastery has been a pilgrimage destination for hundreds of years, and it contains an important icon of the Virgin Mary. The icon, depicting the Mother of God with the Christ Child, is known as the Black Madonna of Częstochowa or Our Lady of Częstochowa, which is widely venerated and credited with many miracles.

Among these, it is credited with miraculously saving the Jasna Góra monastery during the Siege of Jasna Góra that took place at the time of The Deluge, a 17th-century Swedish invasion. The event stimulated the Polish resistance. The Poles could not immediately change the course of the war, but, after an alliance with the Crimean Khanate, they repulsed the Swedes. Shortly thereafter, in the cathedral of Lwów (Lviv), on April 1, 1656, Jan Kazimierz, the King of Poland, solemnly pronounced his vow to consecrate the country to the protection of the Mother of God and proclaimed Her the Patron and Queen of the lands in his kingdom.

To take part in the conference were invited: Aneta Trzcińska (Brand Ambassador EDTNA/ERCA) and Anna Kliś (EDTNA/ERCA Executive Committee).

In Poland there is no palliative care for patients with end-stage renal disease. It happens that a hemodialyzed patient with cancer needs palliative care.

We need good cooperation between the nephrology team and palliative care in order to take good care of such a patient.

On the first day of the conference, Aneta Trzcińska conducted vascular access care workshops.

Aneta Trzcińska talked about the use and care: venflon, vascular catheters, tunneled catheters, PICC (peripherally inserted central catheter), vascular ports, vascular ports used in hemodialysis.

There were many questions and conversations at the workshop. Participants were very interested in the topic and eager to take part in the next workshops.
On the second day of the conference Anna Kliś appeared.

Anna Kliś spoke about the palliative care of the nephrological patient. She talked about the huge need for help for nephrological patients with end stage renal disease.
She spoke about the lack of palliative care in end-stage renal failure in Poland. Anna Kliś spoke about palliative care in end-stage renal failure which exists in other countries.

She talked about the needs and ailments of patients with end-stage renal disease. She said that a patient with end-stage renal disease can give up dialysis but he needs palliative care.

We need changes in Poland - a patient who dies due to end-stage renal failure can not be left alone, without care and help, without analgesia and alleviating unpleasant symptoms.