

We live in a truly
wondrous age of
medicine

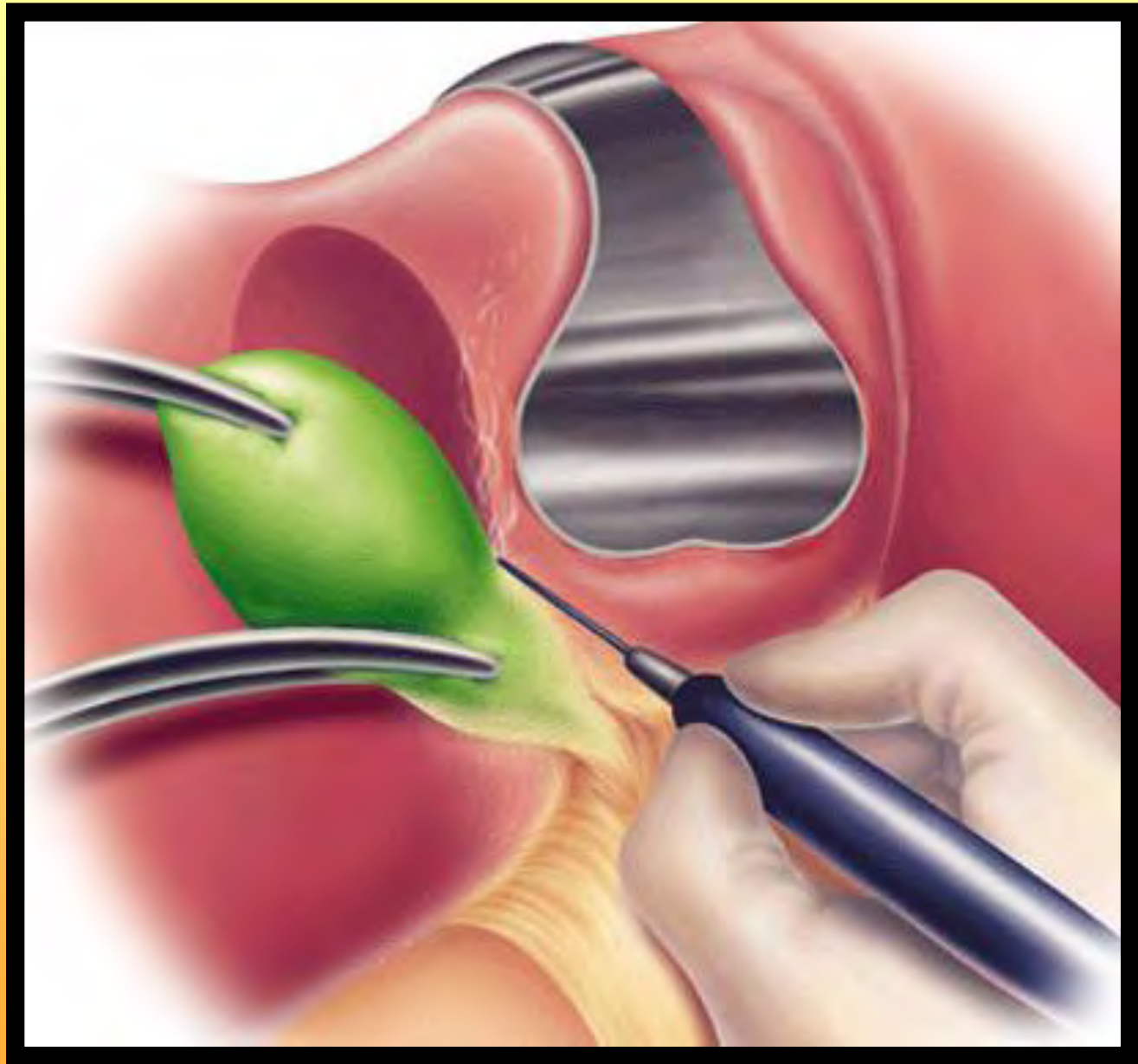
Medieval Surgery



‘Open cholecystectomy’

The way I was trained in the 60s





The scar,
1965



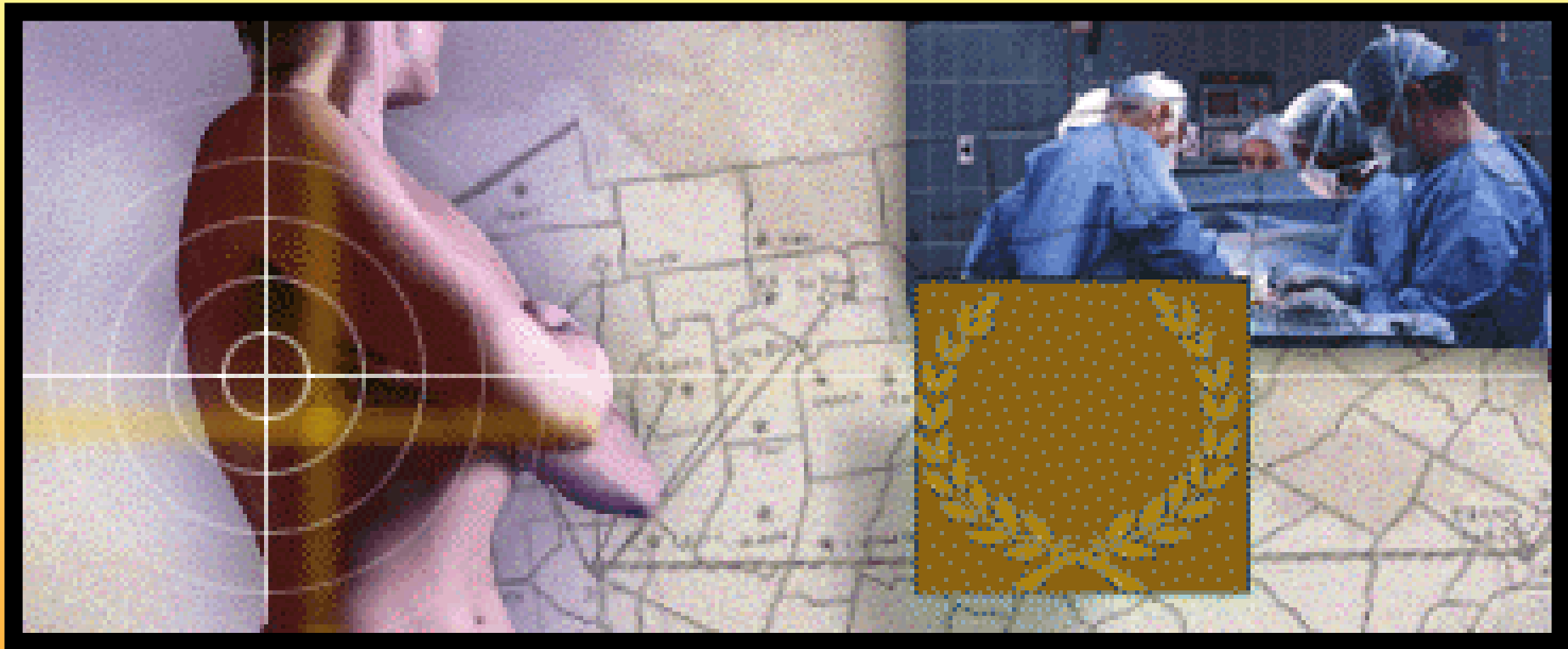
LBJ's scar 1965



Letter to NY Times:

“God forbid
he should have a
hemorrhoidectomy!”

We've come a long way...



Minimally invasive surgery

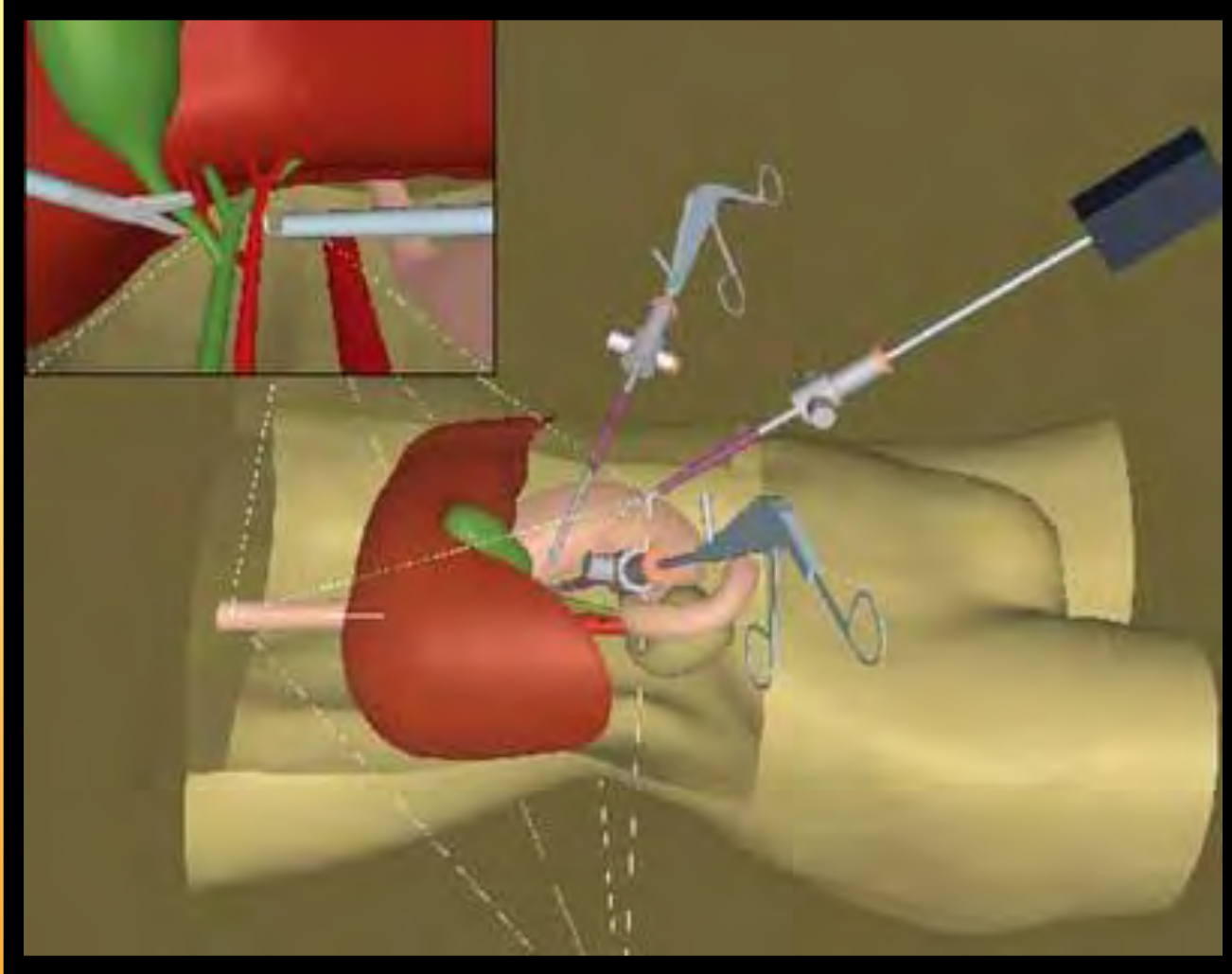
Laparoscopic cholecystectomy

‘Lap chole’

From the outside



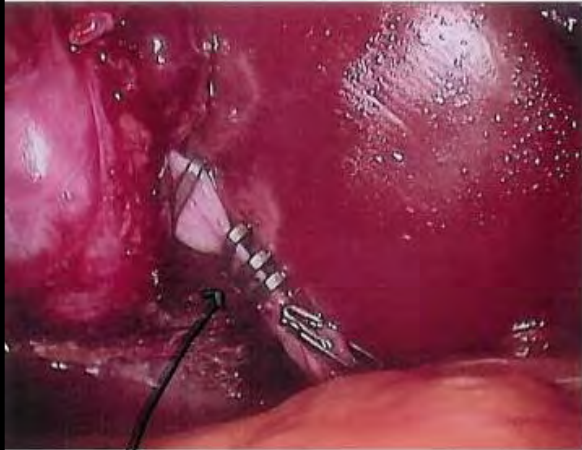
What's going on inside



Gallbladder



Cystic artery



Cystic duct



In bag coming out

Robotic surgery

NOT like Isaac Asimov's

'I, Robot'

...yet



The *da Vinci S*TM will keep you at the forefront of minimally invasive surgery as it accommodates tomorrow's HD video technology, high-speed networking and image guidance systems.



What you see



What it does





Episode #310
July 3, 2002



Dr. Jacques Marescaux, in New York, removed a gall bladder of a patient, who was in Strasbourg, France



The art of medicine
consists of amusing the
patient while nature
cures the disease

Voltaire

Update for today!

Technology exists to amuse
the doctors ...while nature
cures the disease

BTW, the initial cost of
the da Vinci robot
was \$1,000,000

Will our society follow the
Franklin-Allen School of
medico-economics?

God heals and the
doctor takes the fee

Benjamin Franklin

Death is a great
way to cut down
on expenses.

Woody Allen



But, that's not all...

Remote presence robot





The 'doctor' →



What is happening
to the doctor-
patient relationship?

And, do you like it?

We live in
a truly wondrous age
of medicine

We live in
a truly wondrous age
of medicine

Or do we???????????

“Aspirational Heroism”

Science and Technology should
defeat disease and death

Ronald Preston

No one dies of natural
causes anymore

Resident on “St. Elsewhere”
1983

When dollars and skill are
both unlimited, death can
nearly always be
postponed for a while

Sir Macfarlane Barnett 1978

AND TO WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE YOUR
REMARKABLE LONG LIFE OF A HUNDRED
AND TWENTY ONE YEARS, MR THILBY?



From Faust to Star Wars:

Technology is not going to
save us. Our computers, our
machines are not enough. We
have to rely on our intuition,
our true being

Joseph Campbell

CNN Newsflash

Feb 9, 2006

The overall number of cancer deaths in the United States decreased for the first time!!!!!!

Physician-Assisted Living

Joseph A. Califano Jr.

America 1998; 170:10-12

But all the medical miracles of this century notwithstanding, the death rate remains the same: one per person.

There comes a time in the
affairs of men when you must
grab the bull by the tail
and face the situation

W. C. Fields

We are having
problems facing
both life and death

The secret cause of all suffering is mortality itself, which is the prime condition of life. It cannot be denied, if life is to be affirmed

Joseph Campbell

Let's go beyond
technology, back to
the fundamental
principles of
medicine

Edwin Smith Papyrus

- Scribe-copied around 1600 BCE
- Original probably from 3000 BCE
- Author = Imhotep?
 - o Pyramid builder
 - o Priest
 - o Physician

Verdicts

- An ailment which
I will treat
- An ailment with which
I will contend
- An ailment not to be treated

Societal Goals
and
Principles of Medicine

Ernlé Young
1979

Young's teachings:

Principles of medicine

Societal Goals

Preservation of life

Sanctity of life

Alleviation of suffering

Quality of life

Principles of Medicine

Ordinarily, they are compatible and are sought together.

They may, however, become incompatible in which case one or the other must predominate

IN THE BEGINNING

α

(BIRTH)

Ω

(DEATH)

GOAL

VALUE

PRESERVATION
OF LIFE

SANCTITY OF LIFE

>

>

ALLEVIATION
OF SUFFERING

QUALITY OF LIFE

AT THE END

♂

(BIRTH)

♀

(DEATH)

GOAL

VALUE

ALLEVIATION
OF SUFFERING

QUALITY OF LIFE

>

>

PRESERVATION
OF LIFE

SANCTITY OF LIFE



⊗ = POINT BEYOND WHICH LIFE
CANNOT BE EXTENDED WITH

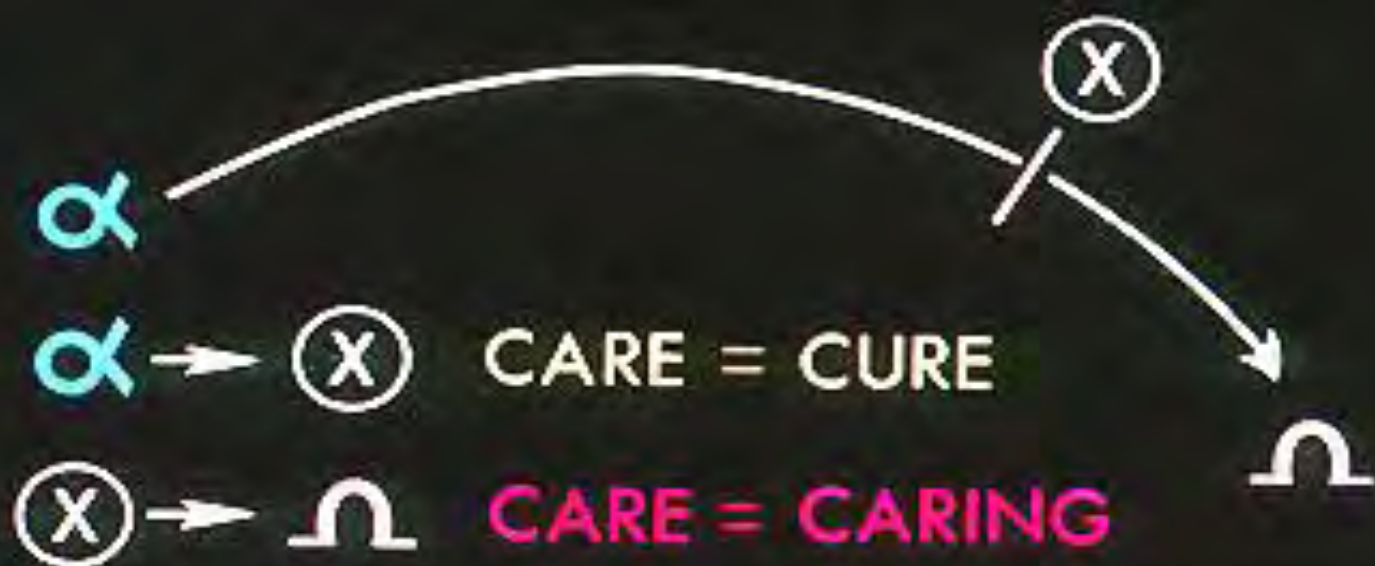
- VALUE
- DIGNITY
- MEANING

DYING CAN ONLY BE PROLONGED

⊗ INCLUDES OBJECTIVE MEDICAL DATA
AND SUBJECTIVE DEFINITION OF
"QUALITY"

Only two problems

- Objective medical data are not accurate
- Subjective definition of “quality” not available



- VALUES ASSOCIATED WITH PRINCIPLES
- SANCTITY OF LIFE WITH PRESERVATION OF LIFE
- QUALITY OF LIFE WITH ALLEVIATION OF SUFFERING

While we may consider the distinction between life and death as white and black, the transition from living to dying may be from a lighter to a slightly darker shade of grey

Therefore, we must simultaneously:

- Pursue care
 - Sanctity of life
 - Patient and family wishes
- Focus on caring
 - Quality of life
 - Alleviation of suffering

Look for signs along the way

We have, on occasion, been so concerned with the 'right of all men to live' that we are in danger of forgetting that it is appointed, for all men, once to die.

John J. Farrell, 1957

Before South Carolina ACS Meeting

VIEWING DEATH AS UNNATURAL
CAUSES US TO CONFUSE OUR
INABILITY TO CURE
WITH FAILURE

Bulkin and Lukashok

NEJM 1988

“When was the time right for
transforming the
failure to cure
into a *successful*
departure from life?”

Louis Dionne

Director, La Maison Michel Sarrazin

CHANGE:

**NOTHING TO BE GAINED FROM FIGHTING
AN INCURABLE DISEASE**

TO:

**EVERYTHING TO BE GAINED FROM
FIGHTING FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE**

DIONNE, 1988

Joseph Califano:

Physician-assisted living
declares that all human
beings have the right to die
in all the dignity with which
God endowed them. . .

. . . that every physician has the obligation to understand and invoke the power of modern medicine to ease the pain and anxiety of the terminally ill and that all patients are entitled to choose to live till they die.

EUPHEMISM

REALITY

AUNT EMMA PASSED AWAY.....DIED

THE PATIENT HAS EXPIRED.....DIED

HE MET HIS DEMISE.....DIED

GRANDMA IS WITH THE ANGELS....DIED

EUPHEMISM

REALITY

AUNT EMMA PASSED AWAY.....DIED

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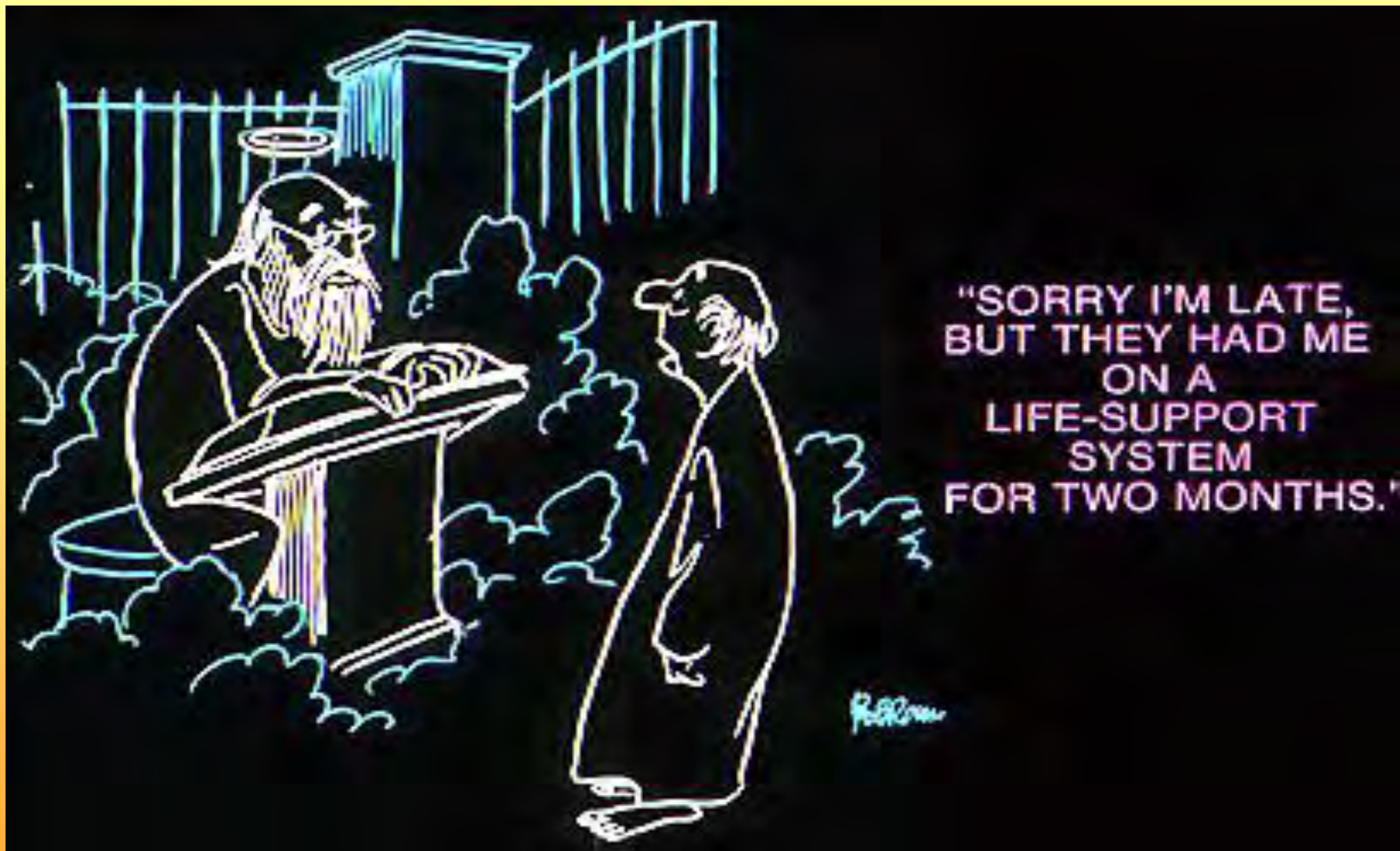
GRANDMA IS WITH THE ANGELS....DIED

(OR WAS TRADED...)

Frank and Ernest

by Bob Thaves





"SORRY I'M LATE,
BUT THEY HAD ME
ON A
LIFE-SUPPORT
SYSTEM
FOR TWO MONTHS."



"My brain is dead but they have the rest of my body on a life-support system!"

A dying man needs
death like a tired man
needs sleep

Stuart Alsop

It hath been said that it is
not death but dying,
which is terrible

Amelia;

Book 3, Chapter 4

Henry Fielding

“With what strife and pain
we come into this world we
know not. But it is
commonly no easy matter
to get out of it.”

Sir Thomas Browne

What is “a good death?”

- ✿ Developed by patient
- ✿ Focused on patient's needs
- ✿ Positive attitude of caregivers
- ✿ Time for leave taking and bereavement
- ✿ As free from pain/sx as possible
- ✿ As brief as consistent with irreversibility



(DEATH)



(BIRTH)

Unexpected death!

Very difficult
to grasp if you are in
your 20s [or even 80s]

It's just *not right* that
a child dies before
the parent...

From the moment of birth,
you are old enough to die

The Talmud

List two things the following
have in common
[beside being female]?

✿ Terri Schiavo

✿ Nancy Cruzan

✿ Karen Anne Quinlan

1. They were all in their 20s when they became unable to speak for themselves.
2. Their cases all ended up in the courts [and media]

Too often, today, we face a
conflict between two
concepts:
a good death
and
futile care

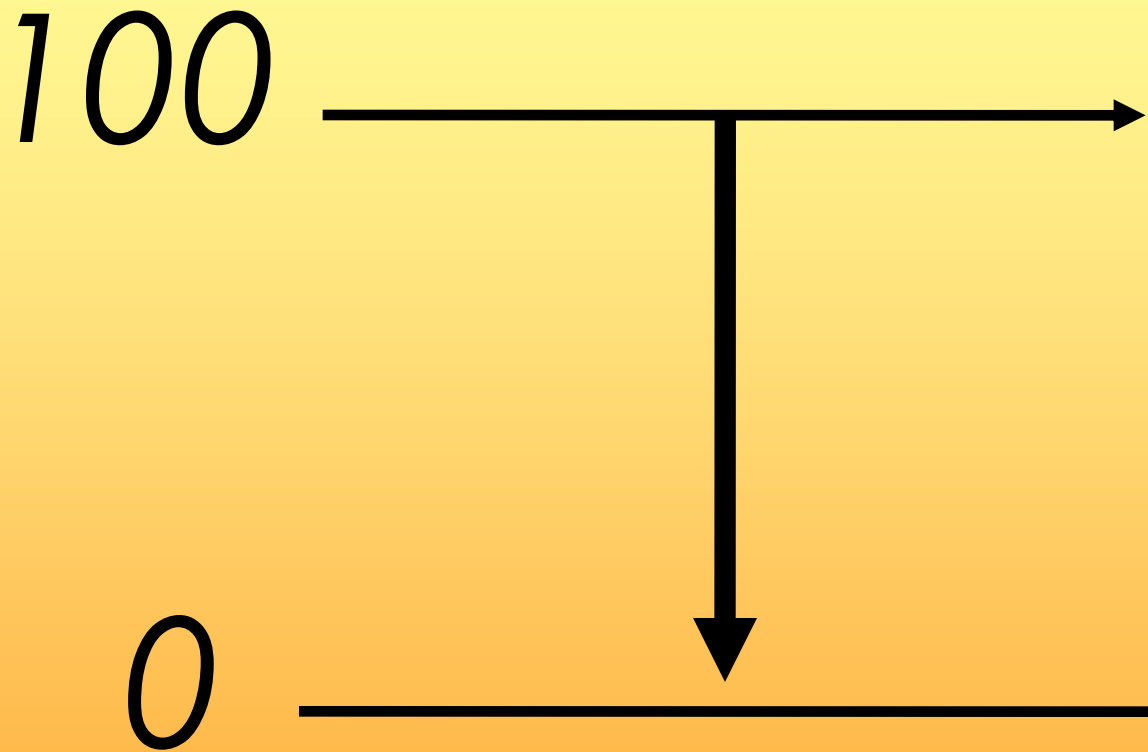
Usually because neither the family or the health care team know the patient's values or what constitutes dignity and meaning, to use Ernlé Young's terms.

Futile

Futilis - that easily
pours out; worthless

serving no useful purpose

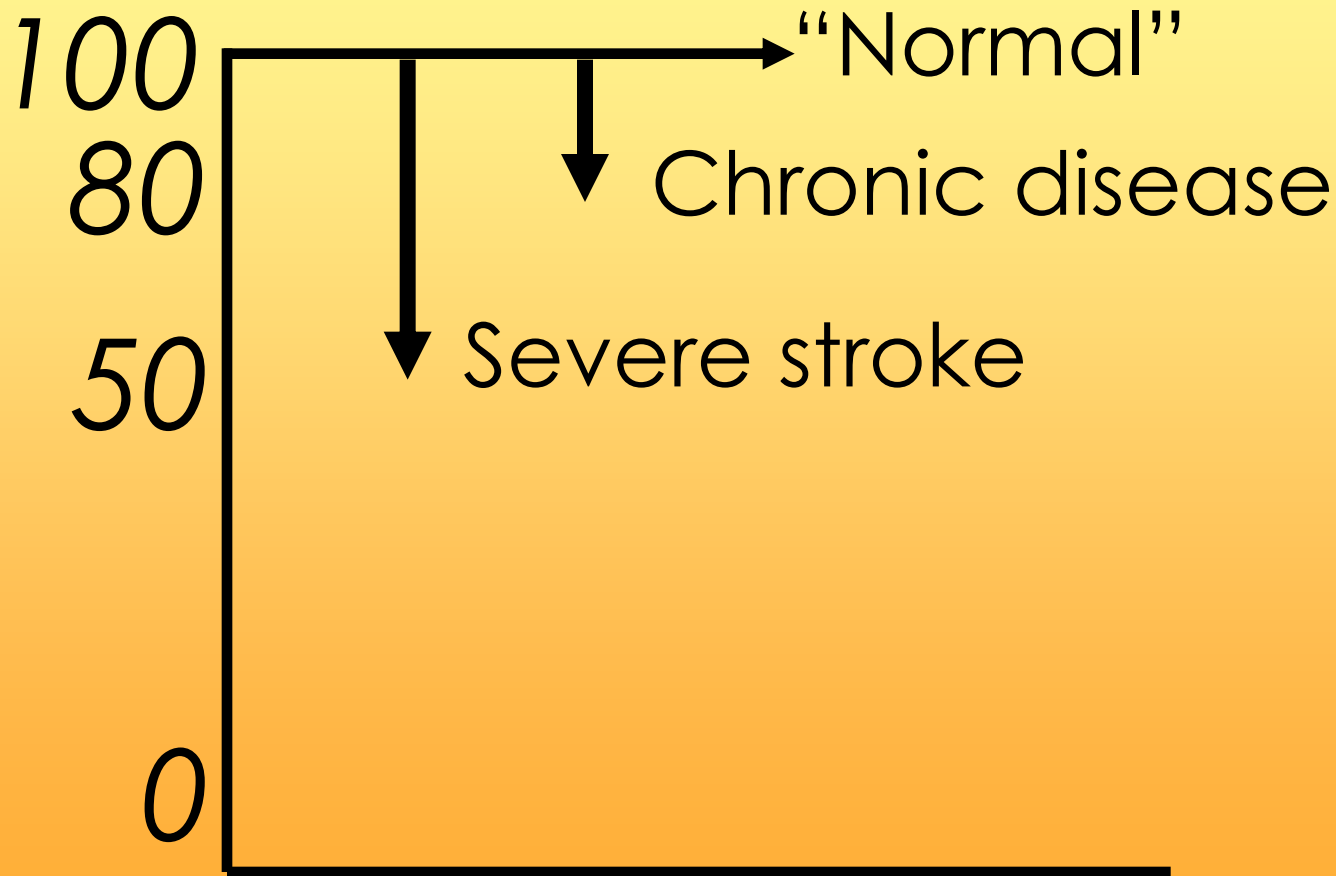
Life: not just yes or no



How do people define “0”?

- Death
 - Putrefaction
 - Absence of vital signs
 - Brain dead
- Vegetative state
- Absence of “personhood”

Life: a quantitative variable?



Worthwhile care

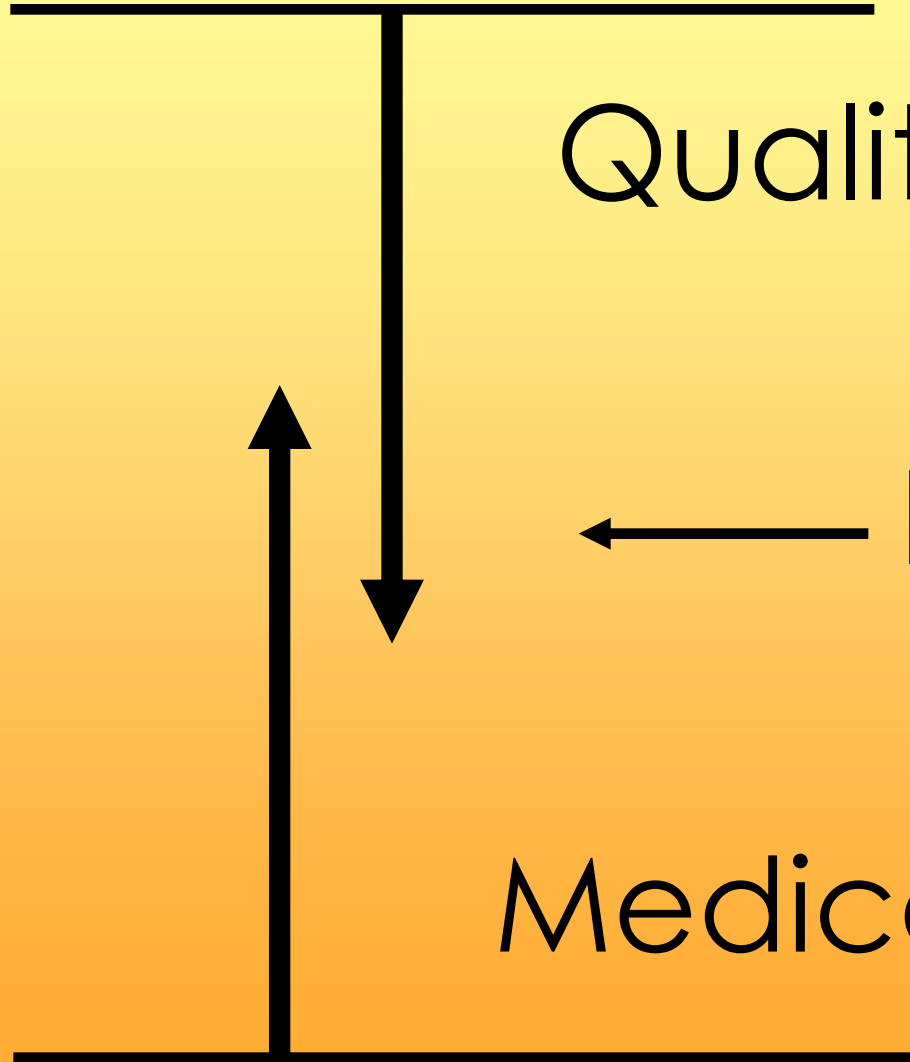
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Quality

Both
Possible

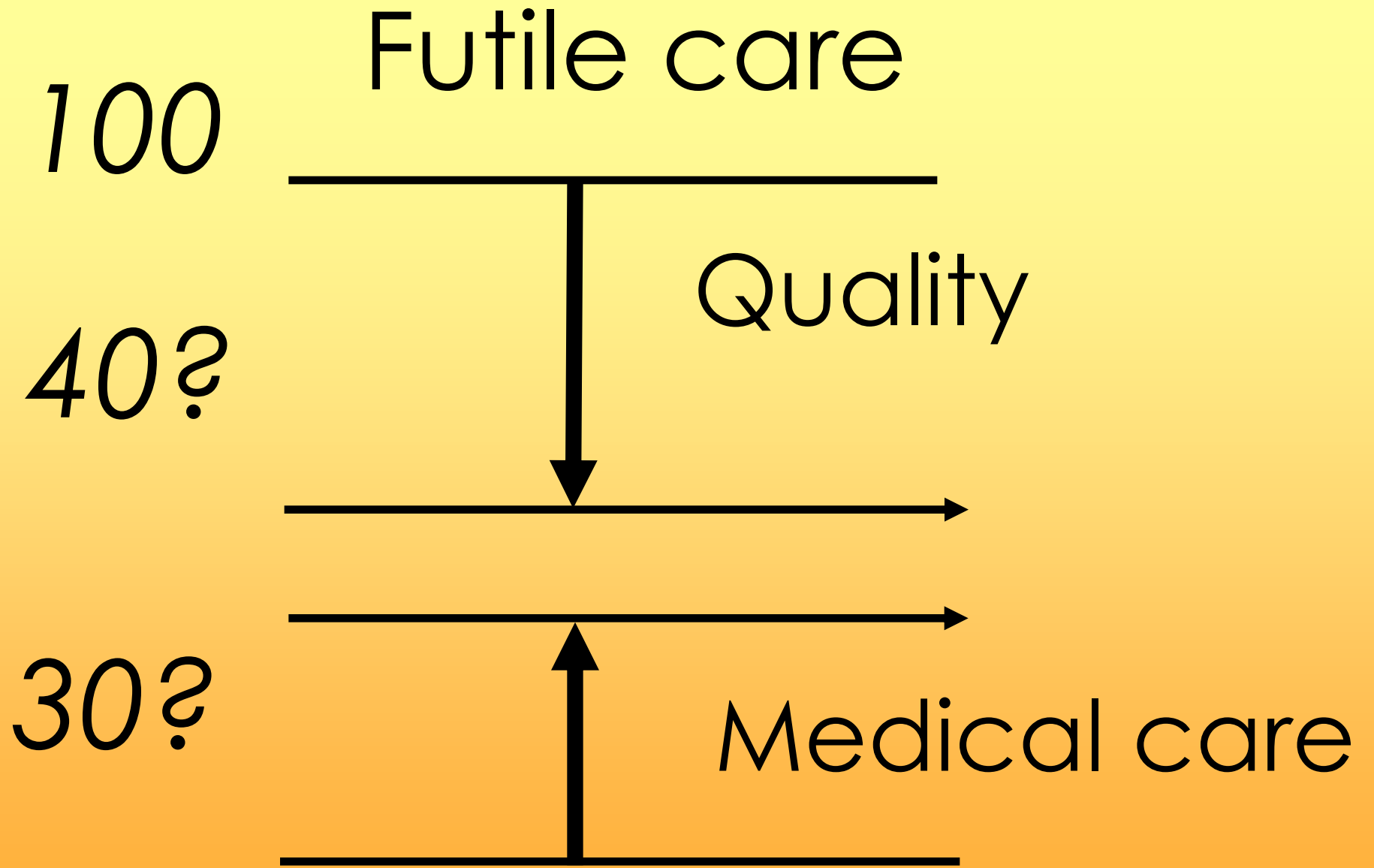
Medical care

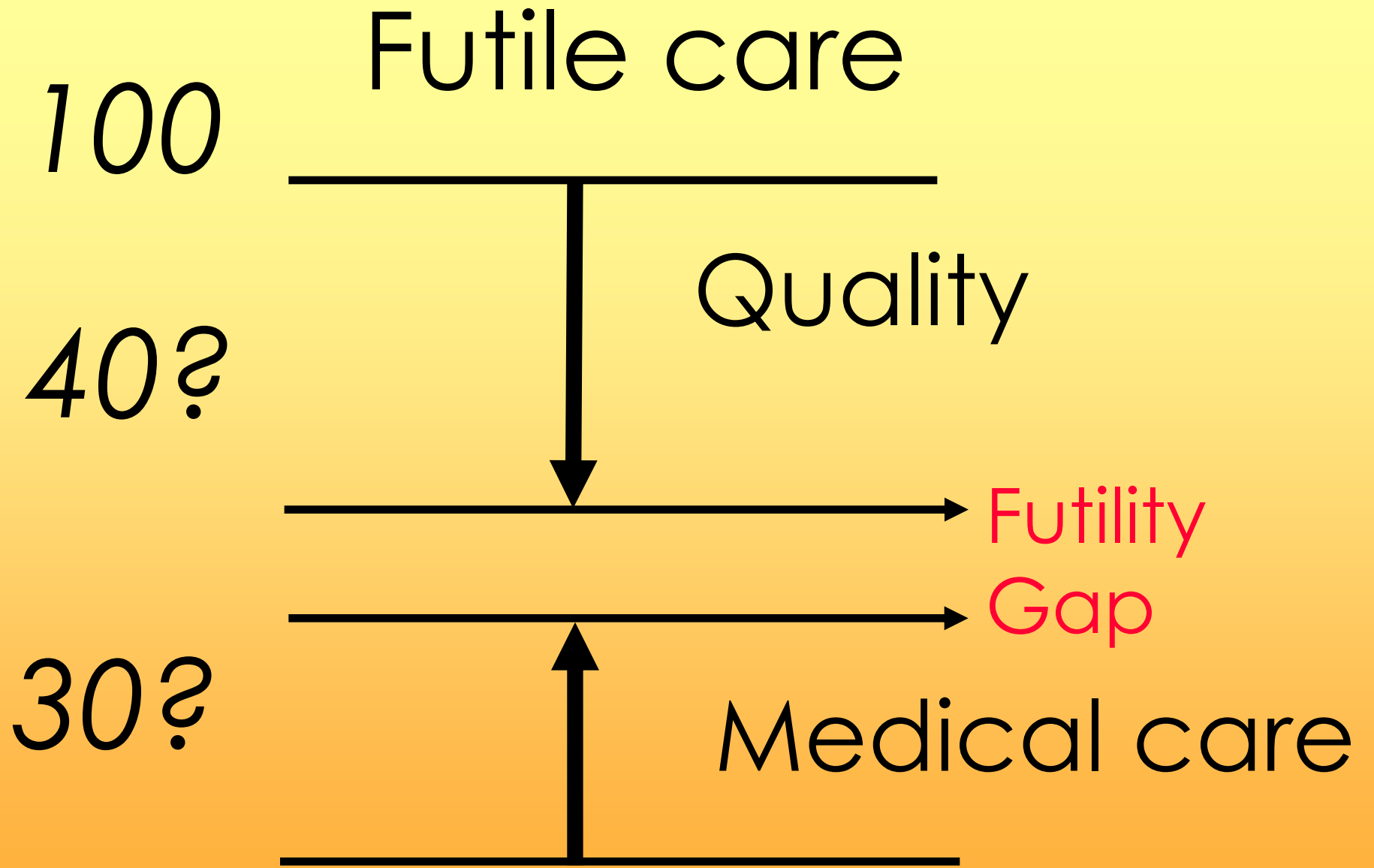
0



Futility = gap

- Highest level
 achievable by medical care
- Lowest quality
 acceptable to patient



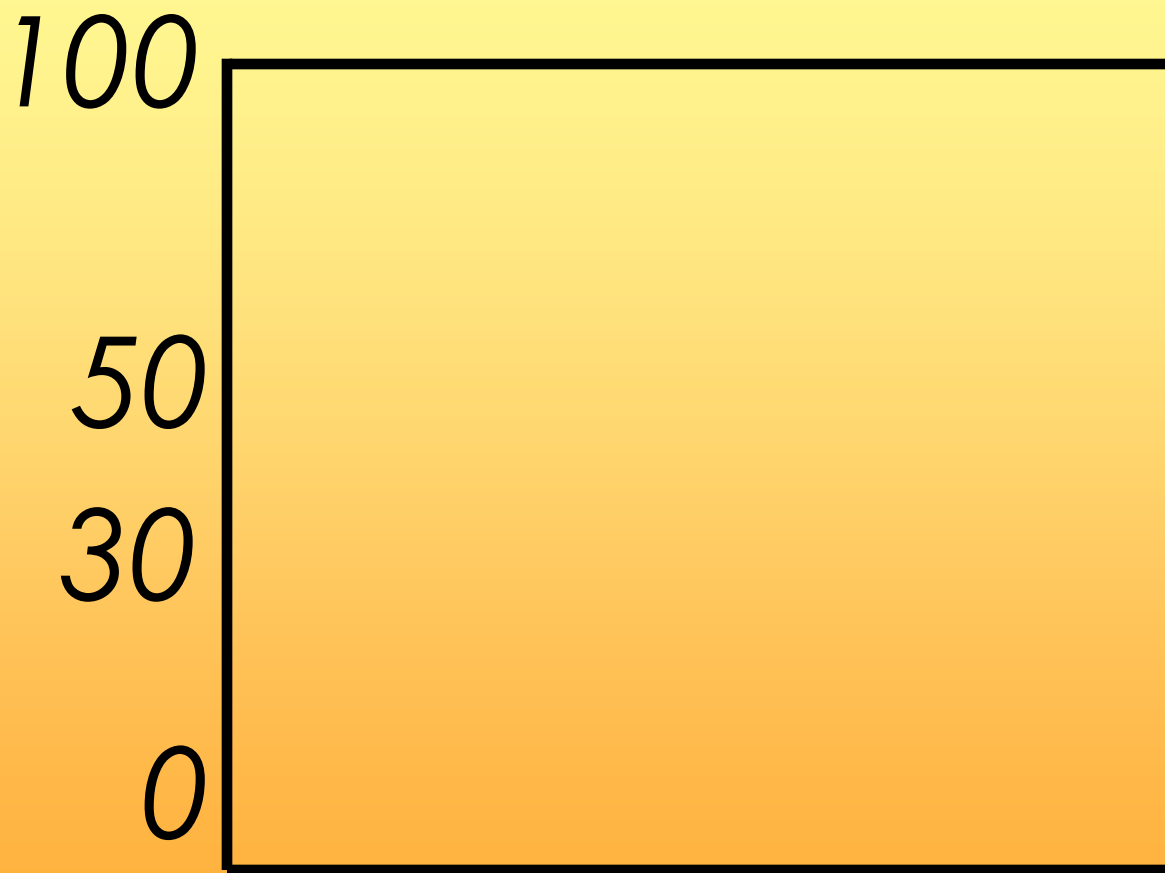


QOL Limbo???

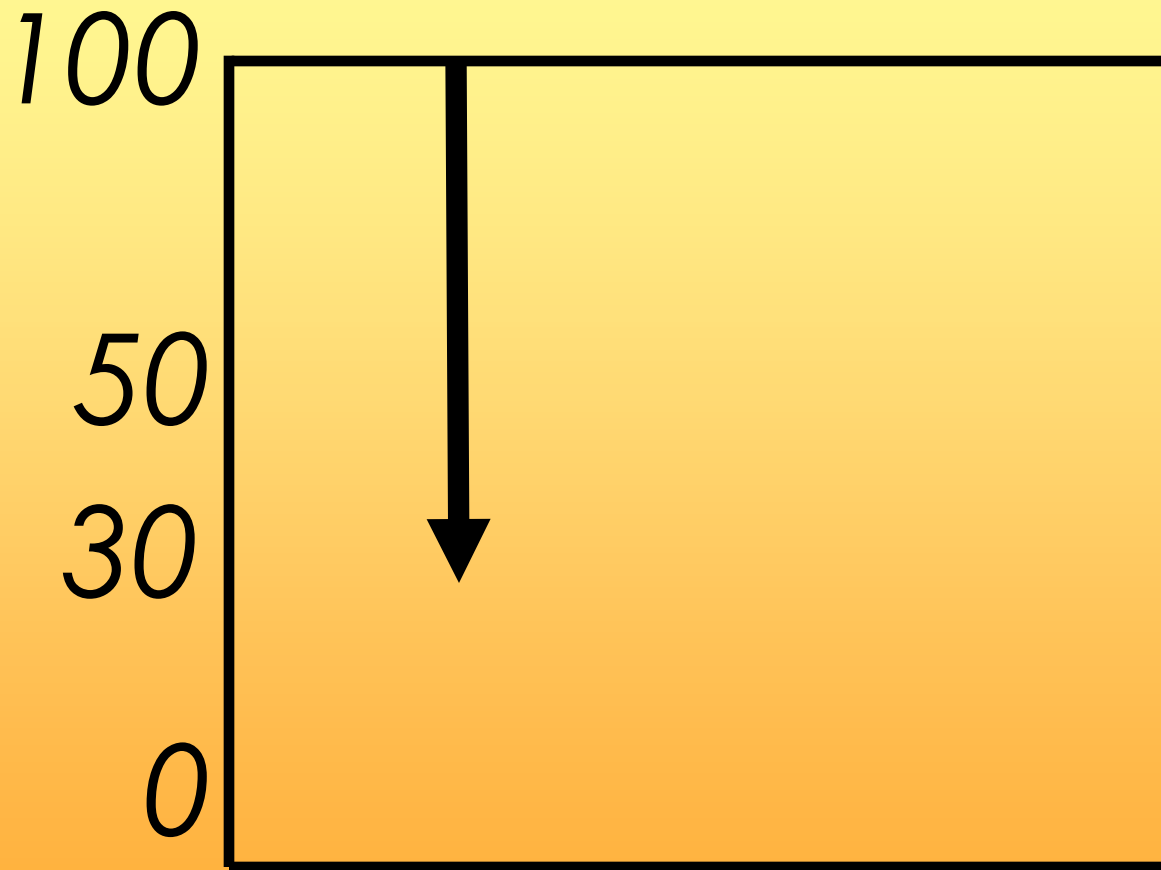
“How low would

you go?”

Today....

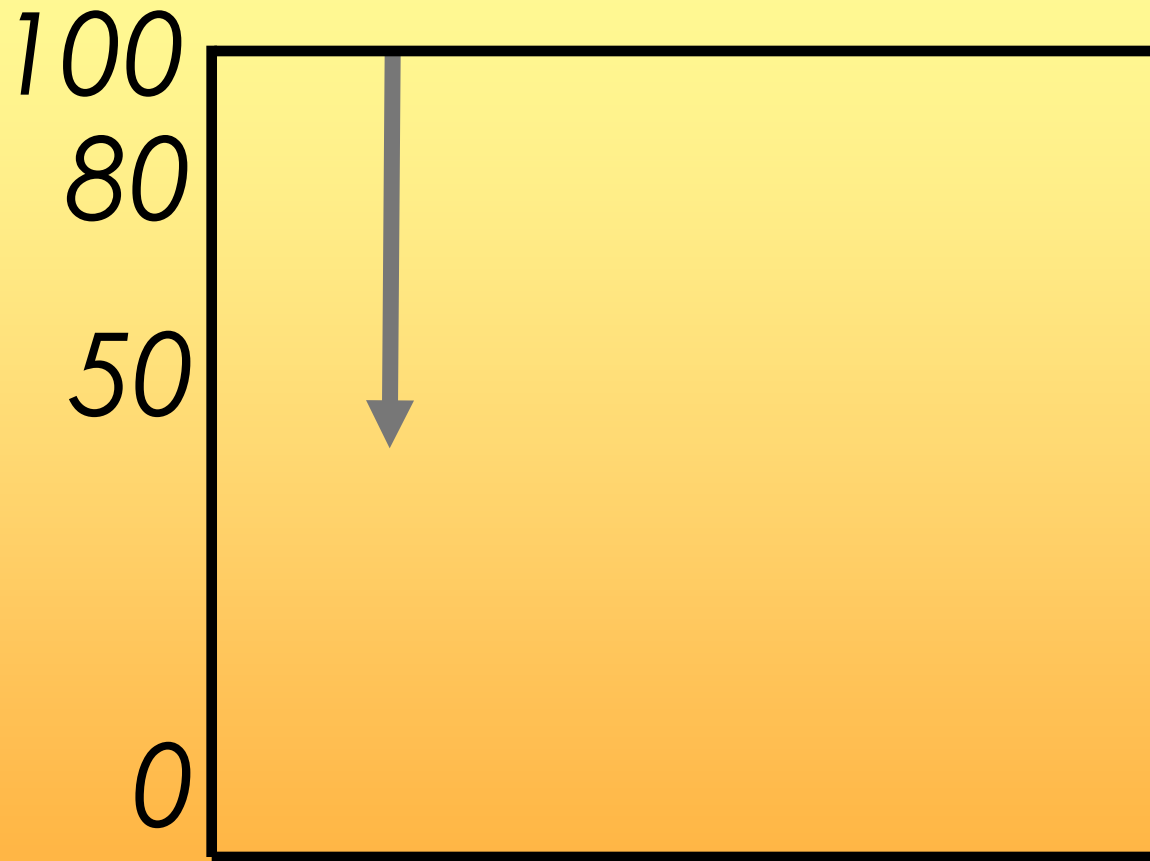


Tomorrow



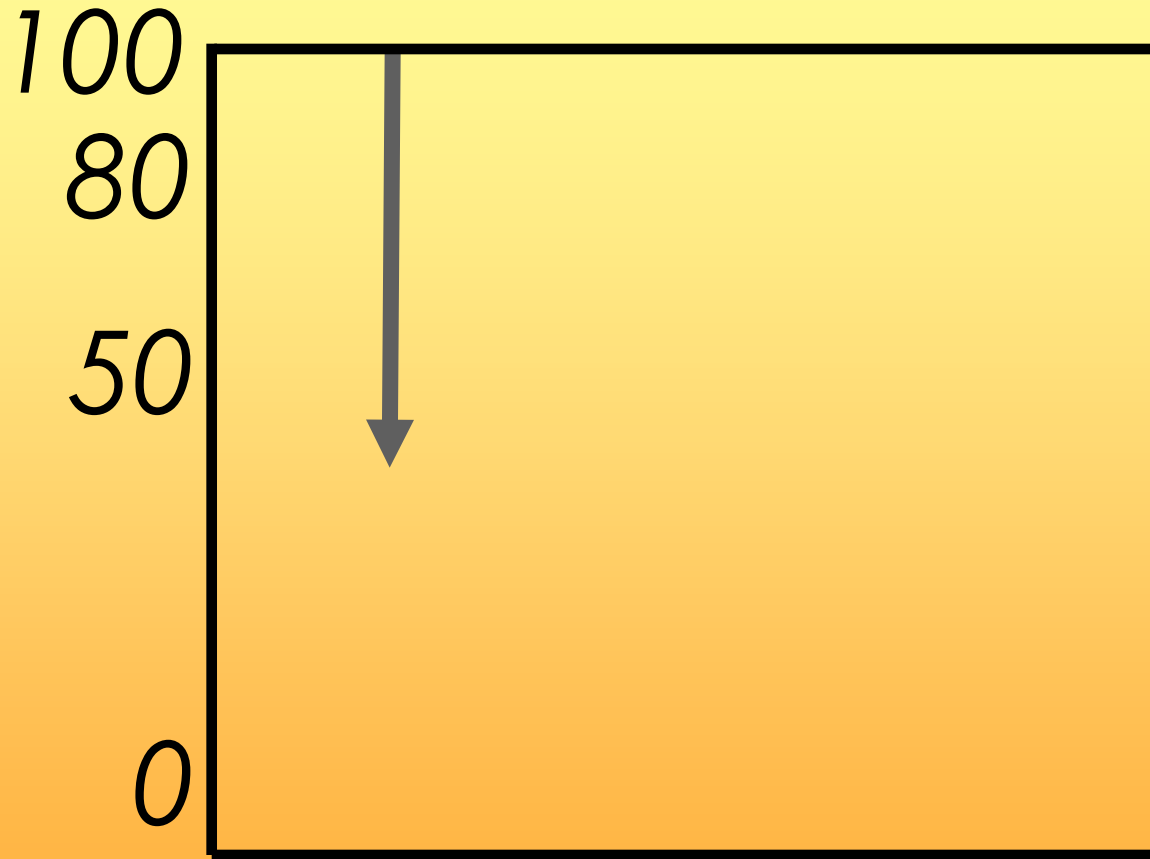
For most of us
[unfortunately],
the change is
not that obvious

Would you go lower?



Yes!!!

Would you go lower?



NO!!!

Boiling frog fable?



If you throw a frog
into a pot of boiling
water, he'll jump out.



BUT...

... if you place a frog
into a pot of lukewarm
water and slowly turn
up the heat,
it will boil to death.

EXPLANATION:

If a frog is put in a container and the temperature gradually raised to boiling point, the frog will die, as temperature change is too slow for the frog to detect it.

I am not making this up.

Dave Barry

[http://www.fastcompany.com/
magazine/01](http://www.fastcompany.com/magazine/01)

Next Time, What Say We Boil a Consultant

Consultant Debunking Unit

Fast Company: [Issue 01](#)
November 1995 Page 20

In case you haven't heard it
(and who hasn't?) the frog story ranks
number one on the change hit parade.

Manfred Kets de Vries published the
fable in his recent book, 'Life and Death
in the Executive Fast Lane.'

His conclusion:
“Unfortunately, many organizations, as they grow, begin to resemble the boiled frog.”

According to Dr. George R. Zug,
of the National Museum of
Natural History,

“Well that's, may I say,
bullsh**. If a frog had a
means of getting out, it
certainly would get out.”

Professor Doug Melton, Harvard
University Biology Department

"If you put a frog in boiling water,
it won't jump out. It will die.

If you put it in cold water, it will
jump before it gets hot -- they
don't sit still for you."

Where do all the frogs and
commentators leave us?

Gradual change may be
difficult to perceive.

What you think unacceptable now

may not

be unacceptable later.

How will you make your
wishes known?

P. S. That question
assumes that you know
your own wishes...

YOU NEED AN
ADVANCE DIRECTIVE
AND
A HEALTH CARE AGENT

Remember,
if you don't speak for yourself, the
others who speak for you may
NOT say what you want.

Do not go gently into that good night,
Old age should burn and
rage at close of day;
Rage, rage against
the dying of the light.

Dylan Thomas

...caregivers should be prepared and anticipate the pervasive, powerful and genuine desire not to be dead, a desire that, while imprudent to caregivers, should be acknowledged and not discounted or belittled.

Finucane

J Am Geriatr Soc 2002: 50; 551-553

Old Mississippi
doctor's saying:

When the good Lord
puts His hands on,
I take mine off

For those of you
interested in medicine
as a career,
go for it!

For those of you
interested in medicine
as a career,
go for it!

But, follow it...

“BACK TO THE FUTURE”

Don't take life too
seriously... you'll never
get out of it alive

Elbert Hubbard

“If during a decade a man does not change his mind on some things and develop new points of view, it is a pretty good sign that his mind is putrefied and that he need no longer be counted among the living.”

J. Frank Dobie

END