



## Medical Ethics: reading and vocabulary

**A. Click the link and read the abstract. Then choose the correct answer for each question.**

[Medical futility: definition, determination, and disputes in critical care](#)

1. In cases of medical futility, physicians may decide to stop certain treatments

- A. because patients request them to do so.
- B. because patients' relatives insist they continue.
- C. because it is not in the best interests of the patient.

2. In some cases, physicians discontinue treatment

- A. before looking at evidence about its benefit to the patient.
- B. after developing an opinion that it might be pointless.
- C. after reading an overview of its advantages.

3. In paragraph 2, the words *no unanimity* means

- A. the statistics are not the same.
- B. doctors do not share the same opinion.
- C. the level of futility is anonymous.

4. Some patients and surrogates think doctors

- A. have too much influence in decisions about continuing treatment.
- B. do not have the necessary authority to make treatment decisions.
- C. want to emerge as the most important figure in all decisions.

5. Suggested solutions to the medical futility dilemma include

- A. more accurate prognosis of conditions.
- B. transfer to palliative care units.
- C. honest, sensitive discussions with all parties.

**B. For some vocabulary practice, go to the [Quizlet flashcards](#) and do the activities.**

**C. Discuss these questions with a partner or group. Use the information on the webpages to help you.**

[What is A Quality Adjusted Life Year?](#)

[Quality-Adjusted Life Year](#)

1. What is QALY?

2. What is the difference between QALY and DALY (disability-adjusted life year)?

3. How are QALY and DALY used in health economics?