

Forbearance of therapy ABSTENCION TERAPEUTICA

Bravo,

Beca,

Bochatey,

The case of a three and half month old hydraencephalic girl with pneumonia, sepsis, polyuria and hypernatremia was submitted to the ethics committee of a teaching hospital. The committee's recommendations were: do not proceed with further studies to confirm diabetes insipidus: to give her basic care including parenteral and enteral fluids, food, oxygen and antibiotic therapy; to forbear the use of parenteral aminoacid solutions, mechanical ventilatory support or vasopressin preparations; to give comprehensive information and affectionate care to all her family members. This kind of ethical decisions must always be taken under consultation with a clinical ethics committee and with due consideration to the nearest family members. The compromise of medicine with life does not mean that this last must be sustained at any cost and in any circumstance. On the contrary, quality of life should be a very important element to take into account. Affectionate care together with psychological and s