Taking Care of Muslim Patients

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2012 CE / 1433 AH
My Knowledge about Islam

- Do you know the main beliefs of Muslims?
- Have you met a Muslim before?
- Is Islam affected by the different cultures?
- What are Muslims’ major contributions?
- How do you greet a Muslim?
- How many Muslims are in the world today?
Challenges: Patients Care

The Five C’s

- Carry an open mind
- Create compassion
- Combine flexibility in thoughts and actions
- Competency through learning
- Check your “baggage” at the door
True or False: Quick Quiz

- All Arabs are Muslims
- All Muslims are Arabs
- Muslims are monolithic “understand and interpret Islam the same way”
- It is OK for Adult Muslims to drink alcohol
- Jews-Christians-Muslims believe in one God
- Islam is the second largest faith on Earth
- Muslims pray once a week on Fridays only
Which one is a Muslim?
Do you know these Muslims?
Name the Mosque & its location
The History and Geography of Islam
570 CE - Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is born in Mecca

610 CE – Prophet Mohammad at the age of 40, receives the first revelation via Archangel Gabriel

622 CE – Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) creates the first Muslim State in Medina (constitution)

632 CE - Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) dies, at age 63

2012 CE – Muslims are 21% of world population (1.7 billion)
Over six million Muslims in US.
The Global Religious Community

- Christianity (33%)
  (including Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Pentecostal, Anglican, Monophysite, AICs, Latter-day Saints, Evangelical, SDA, Jehovah's Witnesses, Quakers, AOG, nominal, etc.)
- Islam (21%)
  (Shiite, Sunni, etc.)
- Hinduism (16%)
- Buddhism (6%)
- Chinese traditional (6%)
- other (6%)
- primal-indigenous (including African Traditional/Diasporic) (6%)
- Judaism (0.22%)
- Sikhism (0.36%)

Nonreligious (6%)
(incl. agnostic, atheist, secular humanist, + people answering 'none' or no relig. preference. Half of this group is "theistic" but nonrelig.)

NOTE: Total adds up to more than 100% due to rounding and because upper bound estimates were used for each group.

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What is Islam?

Islam, إسلام, is a state of inner peace achieved through submission to God. Islam is a derivative of Salam, which means peace.

Islam is a continuation of the same truth that God revealed to Prophet Adam, Noah, Moses & Jesus.

Islam promotes universal values of peace, justice, mercy and forgiveness.
The Quran / The Holy Book

- It means “the recited”
- Read in the Arabic Language
- Has 114 chapters, some short, others very long
- Has stories, many mentioned in the Bible
- Muslims read the entire Quran in Ramadan. Some memorize it
Goals of Jurisprudence / Sharia


- Foundation of Faith: Belief in God, Angels, Prophets, Scriptures, Day of Judgment, and Divine Decree.

- Pillars of Islam: Two Testimonies of Faith, Prayers, Pilgrimage, Fasting, and Alms-Giving
Sources of Sharia

- God is the legislator. The Quran
- The Prophet: Sunnah
- Ijtihad: Law of deductive logic
- Ijma’: Consensus
- Qiyas: Analogy
Fate and Free Will

- Life & death are predetermined. One has control over choices s/he makes in life.
- Life and death are opportunities to prepare for the Hereafter.
- “Oh, God! Help me over the hardship and agony of death”. Prophet Mohammad on his death bed.
Guiding Legal Maxims

- No harm endured, or reciprocated
- Harm must be removed, by lesser evils
- Seeking public benefit (*istislah*)
- Protection against distress and constriction.
- Alleviate Hardship
- Things are judged by their intentions.
Moral Status of Actions in Sharia

- Obligatory: Reward if follow/punish neglect
- Recommended: Reward if follow/ No punish
- Permitted : No Reward / No Punishment
- Discouraged : Reward if avoided / No punish
- Prohibited : Reward for avoidance and Punishment for performance
What is Public Good?

Three universal principles to safeguard public interests in this life and the Hereafter.

1. **The essential or primary needs (daruriyat)**
   Healthcare, 5 goals of sharia

2. **The general needs (al-hajiyyat)**
   Improve life and remove obstacles (ibadat, mu’amalat, adat, penal code)

3. **The secondary needs (al-tahsiniyat)**
   Enjoin what is good and forbid what is wrong (makarem al-akhlaq)
Islamic Jurisprudence

- Sharia is the norm of the Muslim community.
- Addresses two main areas: Acts of Worship (public and private) and public order (ensure individual and collective justice)
- Ibadaat (Rituals)
- Muamalaat (dealings)
Muslim Patients

- Are Muslims monolithic?
- Religious Preference Identification
- Patients & Chaplains
- Spiritual Care Needs
- Culture, language & gender
Muslim Patients

- Indigenous / Immigrants / Convert
- Religious Practicing / Secular
- Various schools of theology
- Strong family / independent
- Assimilation / Culture/ language
Muslim Patients

- Chaplains maybe welcomed
- Lack of knowledge of chaplaincy
- Imams are not informed
- Over 20% No Religious Preference
- Many unaware of own spiritual needs
- Some are skeptical/ fearful
Spiritual Care Needs

- Prayer / Supplication / Quran
- Place for prayer / direction / schedule
- Wudu & Tayamum
- Halal Food / List of restaurants
- Funeral & Burial Information
- Privacy / knock before entering
- Same gender provider
Muslim Family

- Varies from extended to nuclear.
- Patriarchal
- Palliative Care: Family makes decisions with consultation with community clergy.
- Chaplains can explain to the family and facilitate communication with the Imam.
Response to Terminal Illness

- Diverse responses. Sadness, grief, fear, anger, hopelessness.

- Practicing / spiritual / ritual.

- The time of death “ajal” is determined by God alone. Fighting for life and accepting fate are two goals a Muslim strives for.

- Medicine is a tool or attempt to cure. However, God is the Healer.
Forgiveness and Repentance

- Encourage repentance, until last breath.
- Process of repentance: Recognize mistakes, restore rights, show remorse, seek forgiveness, strive for spiritual empowerment not to return to mistakes, ask God for help.
- The severity of the mistake is trivial compared to asking God for forgiveness.
Care for the Dying Patient

- Give comfort, and remind of God's mercy and forgiveness.
- Recite the Qur'an, give physical comfort, and encourage reciting the SHAHADA.
- Turn bed towards Mecca
- Give family space and privacy
- No need for any post-mortem cleaning
The Use of Sedatives

- Medication OK to alleviate suffering or maintaining a level of consciousness.

- Benefit: Relief from pain and allow for observance of the worship rites.

- Skepticism about definitive responses in near death, more comfortable with less definitive responses. He is in God’s hand.
DNR Patients

- Quran 5:32 “If you save one soul, you save entire humanity”.

- No one is authorized to deliberately end life, either one’s own or that of another.

- Reduce suffering, even if death is thereby hastened is permitted. “Actions are to be judged by their intentions”.

- Comfort care OK. Withholding nutrition or fluid is not allowed. Hydrate and feed.
Post-Mortem Care

- Encourage the family to remain calm, pray for the departed, begin burial process.
- Close the eyes and mouth, and cover the body temporarily with a clean sheet.
- Grief and crying are permitted. Remind that God is the One who gives life and takes it away, at a time appointed by Him.
Care for the Deceased

- Muslims believe the soul remains in the body even after death and the body still feels pain.

- The deceased should be treated with the greatest respect and gentleness.

- Some Muslims believe the body should not be touched by non-Muslims after death.
Interactive Session / Q & A

Recommendations

How to accommodation spiritual needs

Challenges

Situational issues & Topics

Thank you