

**THE VALUE OF LIFE VERSUS THE PERFECTION OF THE BODY**

Varda Swager

*Rambam Medical Center, Haifa, Israel*

K.I. – 2 years old female suffering from Neuroblastoma stage 4, with disseminated disease was hospitalized for chemotherapy. Extravasations of the chemotherapeutic solution caused a necrotic wound in her right hand. Amputation of the hand was considered. Her parents wished - their child to leave this world with a complete body. This situation caused an ethical dilemma among the doctors. It was decided to try a conservative treatment: the wound was treated: using antiseptic solutions, debridement and modern dressings.

Each treatment was accompanied by a lot of stress, fear, concern from the child's side and from her family's side. Multi professional team was involved in the treatment. The team expressed their fear from this treatment but felt it was a challenging. In order to reduce the child's and parents fear, reorganization was needed. The parents and the child were accompanied by a psychologist encouraging her to play with her damaged hand. Those new dressings enabled changes every third day so the child could leave the hospital for the weekends.

As predicted, even though the wound recovered, the child died. But she was buried as a whole person – as her parents wished. The cooperation between the medical team, the child and her family, and the flexibility contributed to this successful treatment.