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comparison of laws and a proposal Evelien Delbeke; 9. The Dutch national guideline on palliative sedation Johan Legemaate; 10. Continuous deep sedation at the end of life: balancing benefits and harms in England, Germany and France Richard Huxtable and Ruth Horn; 11. Can the doctrine of double effect justify continuous deep sedation at the end of life? Kasper Raus, Sigrid Sterckx and Freddy Mortier; 12. Palliative sedation, consciousness and personhood Timothy Holahan, Thomas Carroll, Claudia Gonzalez and Timothy Quill; 13. The ethical evaluation of continuous sedation at the end of life Johannes van Delden; 14. Terminal sedation and euthanasia -- the virtue in calling a spade what it is Søren Holm; 15. Terminal sedation: recasting a metaphor as the *ars moriendi* changes Margaret Battin.

Sommario/riassunto

Continuous sedation until death (sometimes referred to as terminal sedation or palliative sedation) is an increasingly common practice in end-of-life care. However, it raises numerous medical, ethical, emotional and legal concerns, such as the reducing or removing of consciousness (and thus potentially causing 'subjective death'), the withholding of artificial nutrition and hydration, the proportionality of the sedation to the symptoms, its adequacy in actually relieving symptoms rather than simply giving onlookers the impression that the patient is undergoing a painless 'natural' death, and the perception that it may be functionally equivalent to euthanasia. This book brings together contributions from clinicians, ethicists, lawyers and social scientists, and discusses guidelines as well as clinical, emotional and legal aspects of the practice. The chapters shine a critical spotlight on areas of concern and on the validity of the justifications given for the practice, including in particular the doctrine of double effect.