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Obra do artista Andy Warhol

This research was developed with the intention of carrying out a critical analysis on Palliative Care and its relationship with human rights, considering the multidimensional conceptions inherent to pain proposed by Cicely Saunders. The author delves into the concept of total pain by understanding it as a set of symptoms that can contribute to a pain condition which comprises the physical, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions that affect a patient's life. In this way, the field is presented from the concept of total pain to its dimensions – in particular, social pain. It is based on bibliographical research, using the method of narrative revision, and the study of Michel Foucault in his last phase is connected to the reflexive process on pain and finitude as practices of freedom. This study is all about giving meaning to pain in order to re-signify life in a limiting condition imposed by the non-prospect of healing and redirectioning care to maximize the quality of life. It is concluded that social pain is exacerbated by a tense and contradictory daily life, which often imposes a harsh reality and threatens the guarantee of universal access to health (without discrimination and social security), making it become distant, almost utopian. This is, undoubtedly, a dilemma for all health professionals in Brazil.