

Abstract

I have argued in this research report, based on Kantian considerations and the autonomous preferences of patients, that assisted dying is morally permissible in circumstances where the person concerned can no longer live with dignity because he can no longer bear his pain and suffering, and he autonomously wants to die. That assistance may take the form of assisting the person to commit suicide by providing him with a lethal drug or injecting him with a lethal drug in an act of voluntary active euthanasia. I have argued in the first instance for the moral permissibility of suicide in the relevant circumstances, because only if suicide is permissible will assisted dying be permissible. Not all instances of suicide are morally permissible. I have considered objections to my argument by advocates of the sanctity of life and also by those who favour passive but not active euthanasia.