

Table 23-3: Arguments against Artificial Feeding in Advanced AIDS

- Does not increase survival
- Promotes suffering due to aspiration, diarrhea and abdominal pain (NG, PEG tubes)
- Can be withheld, as can hydration, according to U.S. Supreme Court decisions
- Is inconsistent with some religious and secular values
- Distracts family from issues of emotional support, completion of relationships and other end-of-life tasks

Source: Gillick MR. Rethinking the role of tube feeding in patients with advanced dementia. *N Engl J Med* 342:206–10, 2000.