WHY DO PEOPLE REQUEST EPAS?

In the jurisdictions where it is legal, psychological, social and existential reasons lead to requests for EPAS rather than physical symptoms like pain.

http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0269216306071799


Autonomy, or the desire to control the manner and timing of one’s death, is also an important factor:


Euthanasia for existential distress has been permitted under the Dutch law for euthanasia:

https://search.proquest.com/openview/7d44b9975b98cad5b13e81c1b6fd8dd7/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=2040978

But research has shown that requests for EPAS are often cries for help that are misinterpreted by healthcare professionals:

http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1191/0269216305pm1048oa

Furthermore, the desire for hastened death waxes and wanes over time:


In a recent article in the Medical Journal of Australia, Ezekiel Emanuel pointed out that requests for EPAS are uncommon at the end of life and that legalizing EPAS would not solve the problem of inadequate end of life care. He likened euthanasia requests to suicide: