

Lethal Talk

J. Trig Brown, MD, MPH

Palliative Medicine, Duke University Health System, Durham, NC, USA.

Today the consultant
Drowned the family
In words
Numbing data
Fouled the sacred space with
jargon, and too many “yes, buts”
spoiled and soiled the air with crepe.
No warning shots were fired before his arrow hit his target
and
what little hope, humanity and life remaining
spilled over the fragile dam, cascaded across the floor and
stained all shoes but his.

Corresponding Author: *J. Trig Brown, MD, MPH, Palliative Medicine, Duke University Health System, Durham, NC, USA (e-mail: trig.brown@duke.edu).*

J Gen Intern Med
DOI: 10.1007/s11606-017-4271-z
© Society of General Internal Medicine 2017