"Is the Sanctity of Life Ethic Terminally III"  By Peter Singer

Zhihua Xie, meaning of life: quality of life vs sanctity of life

Is a breathing person without any personality and consciousness still alive? In this essay, Peter Singer describes two steps in approaching the answer. The first is the acceptance of brain death. Peter Singer discusses higher brain death as a convenient way of determining which persons can be removed from artificial life-support machines so that doctors can use their healthy organs to save other conscious patients' lives. Singer's essay also questions the declaration of brain death for people who seem to be in that state, which suggests that we are perhaps too slapdash in pronouncing death by calling it brain death and there must be a better solution. Therefore, Singer's second step is the acceptance of the concept of quality of life, rather than the sanctity of life, as the basis of decision-making. Life has to have a meaning in order to be called life. Singer argues that the traditional western ethic that lasted thousands of years ended in the early 1990s, specifically in 1993, when British law ruled Anthony Bland, a man in a persistent vegetative state, could be killed by his doctors after considering his life was meaningless. This decision has made people reconsider the definition of life and death. It has also raised the debate between the quality and the sanctity of life, particularly in the decision of ending lives, that is who lives and who dies?