

DELIRIUM APPENDICES (Draft for Consultation)

Appendix E: Methodological quality: Information for Patients

Author (year)	Theoretical approach		Study design	Data Collection	Validity			Ethics
	<i>Qualitative approach</i>	<i>Study purpose</i>	<i>Defensible/rigorous research design/methodology</i>	<i>Data collection methods</i>	<i>Role of researcher described</i>	<i>Context clearly described</i>	<i>Methods reliable</i>	<i>Reporting of ethical considerations</i>
Duppils (2007)	Appropriate	Clear	Defensible	Appropriate	Clear	Clear	Reliable	Clear
		To describe patients' experience of being delirious post hip surgery. In this study there were 6 'sundowners' and 9 post op delirium patients.	To explore experience in depth requires qualitative study approach.	Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a question guide. All interviews were tape recorded except one.	Researcher/ interviewer had met patients during delirium episode.	Setting was in hospital except two patients. There was no discussion of context bias.	Only one method was used – interview with tape recording	Study had Ethics Committee approval
Analysis								
	<i>Sufficiently rigorous</i>	<i>Are the data 'rich'?</i>	<i>Reliable analysis</i>	<i>Convincing findings</i>	<i>Findings relevant</i>	<i>Adequate conclusions</i>		
	Rigorous	Not sure/not reported	Reliable	Convincing	Relevant	Adequate		
	Qualitative content analysis with use of metaphor	There was variety in depth of interviews due to cognitive ability and communication.	Two researchers undertook the analysis. There was no participant feedback due to older age.	Well supported themes with quotations presented.	Findings are descriptive of the experience.	See narrative		

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Gagnon (2002)	<i>Qualitative Approach</i>	<i>Study purpose</i>	<i>Defensible/rigorous research design/methodology</i>	<i>Data collection methods</i>	<i>Role of researcher described</i>	<i>Context clearly described</i>	<i>Methods reliable</i>	<i>Reporting of ethical considerations</i>
	Appropriate	Clear	Defensible	Appropriate	Unclear	Clear	Not sure	Not sure/not reported
	This study describes the development and implementation of a psychoeducational intervention based upon focus group consultations, peer review and user interviews.	Phase 1 aimed to develop the framework of an optimal psychoeducational intervention about delirium; phase 2 was the development of a brochure to be used as part of the psychoeducational intervention and phase 3 included the implementation and evaluation of the intervention.	The design is appropriate to the research aims and sampling is justified on the basis of the size of the hospice (15 bed facility)	Data collection methods were well described.	The researcher's role was to train and observe staff in the implementation of the intervention. It is unclear whether the families involved in receiving or not receiving the information understood that a study was being conducted.	The context was a 15 bed hospice and context bias was discussed and includes the implications of the setting, i.e. terminal care.	Data for Phase 3 was evidently collected by telephone about two weeks after the death of the patient.	Ethics approval not discussed. Issues about disclosure of information were discussed.
Analysis								
	<i>Sufficiently rigorous</i>	<i>Are the data 'rich'?</i>	<i>Reliable analysis</i>	<i>Convincing findings</i>	<i>Findings relevant</i>	<i>Adequate conclusions</i>		
	Not sure/not reported	Rich	Reliable	Convincing	Relevant	Adequate		
	Analytic methods are described. Some non-validated scales used.	A Comparison of groups, the usual care group and the intervention group was made.	The responses of caregivers were statistically analysed.	Statistical tables are presented. Comments from carers are well summarised.	Although delirium in end of life settings is excluded from this review, these findings represent the only informational tool described in the literature reviewed from this question. It appeared to be generalisable to the larger population of delirium patients and their carers and was therefore included.	The conclusions are plausible and this research led to the implementation of a psychoeducational tool as part of routine care in research setting.		

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Granberg (1998)	<i>Qualitative Approach</i>	<i>Study purpose</i>	<i>Defensible/rigorous research design/methodology</i>	<i>Data collection methods</i>	<i>Role of researcher described</i>	<i>Context clearly described</i>	<i>Methods reliable</i>	<i>Reporting of ethical considerations</i>
	Appropriate	Clear	Defensible	Appropriate	Clear	Clear	Reliable	Clear
	Qualitative study appropriate for focus on the patient perspective of the ICU syndrome.	Aim: To gain insight and to describe and analyse the patient experience in order to gain knowledge and understanding of the ICU syndrome and the development of this syndrome.	Method: Hermeneutic approach – to attain a deeper understanding of the text of the interviews through the researcher’s preconceptions and reasoning.	Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a question guide. All interviews were tape recorded except one.	Research explained more than once to the patient.	Settings described in context. Bias not discussed.	Methods appropriate to investigation.	Study had Ethics Committee approval.
Analysis								
	<i>Sufficiently rigorous</i>	<i>Are the data ‘rich’?</i>	<i>Reliable analysis</i>	<i>Convincing findings</i>	<i>Findings relevant</i>	<i>Adequate conclusions</i>		
	Rigorous	Rich	Reliable	Convincing	Relevant	Adequate		
	Two authors reviewed all texts in a systematic manner.	Diversity maintained with good detail and depth. Comparisons made across groups.	Two researchers resolved difference in a continuous process until a common understanding was reached while still maintaining incompatibilities.	Clearly presented findings with reference to data.	See narrative.	See narrative.		

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Granberg (1998)	<i>Qualitative Approach</i>	<i>Study purpose</i>	<i>Defensible/rigorous research design/methodology</i>	<i>Data collection methods</i>	<i>Role of researcher described</i>	<i>Context clearly described</i>	<i>Methods reliable</i>	<i>Reporting of ethical considerations</i>
	Appropriate	Clear	Defensible	Appropriate	Clear	Clear	Reliable	Clear
	Descriptive study of patient experiences requires qualitative approach.	Aim: To describe patients' experience of being delirious post hip surgery. In this study there were 6 'sundowners' and 9 post op delirium patients.	To explore experience in depth requires qualitative study approach.	Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a question guide. All interviews were tape recorded except one.	Researcher/interviewer had met patients during delirium episode.	Setting was in hospital except two patients. There was no discussion of context bias.	Only one method was used – interview with tape recording.	Study had Ethics Committee approval.
Analysis								
	<i>Sufficiently rigorous</i>	<i>Are the data 'rich'?</i>	<i>Reliable analysis</i>	<i>Convincing findings</i>	<i>Findings relevant</i>	<i>Adequate conclusions</i>		
	Rigorous	Not sure/not reported	Reliable	Convincing	Relevant	Adequate		
	Qualitative content analysis with use of metaphor.	There was variety in depth of interviews due to cognitive ability and communication.	Two researchers undertook the analysis. There was no participant feedback due to older age.	Well supported themes with quotations presented.	Findings are descriptive of the experience.	See narrative.		

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Author (year)	Theoretical approach		Study design	Data collection	Validity			Ethics
	<i>Qualitative Approach</i>	<i>Study purpose</i>	<i>Defensible/rigorous research design/methodology</i>	<i>Data collection methods</i>	<i>Role of researcher described</i>	<i>Context clearly described</i>	<i>Methods reliable</i>	<i>Reporting of ethical considerations</i>
Harding (2008)	Appropriate	Clear	Defensible	Appropriate	Not described	Clear	Reliable	Not sure/not reported
	Purpose of study: to better understand the experience of delirium in the population under review	To understand the experience of older patients with delirium after reparative hip surgery.	Interpretative Phenomenological analysis	Semi structured interview schedule which covered 'unusual experiences' explanations for these experiences and discussing unusual experiences.	Role of researcher was not described in detail.	The context specifically chosen to address the needs of older people after reparative hip fracture	Methods as described appear to be reliable.	Ethics Committee approval not reported.
Analysis								
	<i>Sufficiently rigorous</i>	<i>Are the data 'rich'?</i>	<i>Reliable analysis</i>	<i>Convincing findings</i>	<i>Findings relevant</i>	<i>Adequate conclusions</i>		
	Not sure/not reported	Not sure/not reported	Not sure/not reported	Convincing	Relevant	Adequate		
	Analysis methods named but not described in detail	In depth contextual elements not described	Details of data analysis not described.	Well supported themes.	See narrative.	Conclusions and interpretation are linked to data and limitations were discussed. The results are consistent with other studies in this field.		

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Author (year)	Theoretical approach		Study design	Data collection	Validity			Ethics
Laitinen (1996)	<i>Qualitative Approach</i>	<i>Study purpose</i>	<i>Defensible/rigorous research design/methodology</i>	<i>Data collection methods</i>	<i>Role of researcher described</i>	<i>Context clearly described</i>	<i>Methods reliable</i>	<i>Reporting of ethical considerations</i>
	Appropriate	Clear	Defensible	Appropriate	Clear	Clear	Reliable	Not Sure/Not Reported
	Patient descriptions aide in deeper understanding of the phenomenon.	Aim: To describe and reflect on patients' experience of confusion ('post pump delirium')	Method: Phenomenological – hermeneutic approach which was well described and justified.	Tape recorded unstructured dialogue.	Hermeneutic approach was well described.	Discussion of the setting was adequate and taken into account (ICU)	Only one method was used – open dialogue as a part of the process of the research method.	Not reported.
Analysis								
	<i>Sufficiently rigorous</i>	<i>Are the data 'rich'?</i>	<i>Reliable analysis</i>	<i>Convincing findings</i>	<i>Findings relevant</i>	<i>Adequate conclusions</i>		
	Not sure/not reported	Not sure/not reported	Not sure/not reported	Convincing	Relevant	Adequate		
	Themes were not listed and thematic analysis was not well described. Five areas were discussed but it is not clear if these represent all themes.	ICU was well described but diversity of perspective and comparisons were not presented.	Not reported	See narrative.	See narrative.	See narrative.		

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Margery (2005)	<i>Qualitative Approach</i>	<i>Study purpose</i>	<i>Defensible/rigorous research design/methodology</i>	<i>Data collection methods</i>	<i>Role of researcher described</i>	<i>Context clearly described</i>	<i>Methods reliable</i>	<i>Reporting of ethical considerations</i>
	Appropriate	Clear	Defensible	Appropriate	Clear	Clear	Reliable	Clear
	Descriptive study aiming to provide rich detailed description requires qualitative methods.	Describes ICU memories in context of other memories	Method: Questionnaire to guide case selection followed by interview.	Clear description of methods of collection of data.	Research clearly explained to patient.	Settings and inclusion criteria was defined. Bias not discussed.	Interviews were taped. Questionnaires were used initially.	Ethical approval given.
Analysis								
	<i>Sufficiently rigorous</i>	<i>Are the data 'rich'?</i>	<i>Reliable analysis</i>	<i>Convincing findings</i>	<i>Findings relevant</i>	<i>Adequate conclusions</i>		
	Rigorous	Rich	Not Sure/not reported	Convincing	Relevant	Adequate		
	Analysis used Morse and Field(1996) method of thematic analysis	Data well described and compared.	Not stated if more than one researcher analysed the data or participants gave feedback.					

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Mc Curren (2003)	<i>Qualitative Approach</i>	<i>Study purpose</i>	<i>Defensible/rigorous research design/methodology</i>	<i>Data collection methods</i>	<i>Role of researcher described</i>	<i>Context clearly described</i>	<i>Methods reliable</i>	<i>Reporting of ethical considerations</i>
	Appropriate	Clear	Defensible	Appropriate	Clear	Clear	Reliable	Clear
	A phenomenologic approach to elicit patient experiences is appropriate	Aim: To describe delirium based on the lived experience of hospitalised elders and to investigate how patients give meaning to the experience.	Method: See 1.1	Tape recorded interviews (14) were conducted.	As per phenomenological method.	Target population was older adults in hospital or recently discharged.	One method was used – reliable open interview technique.	Ethics Committee approval given.
Analysis								
	<i>Sufficiently rigorous</i>	<i>Are the data 'rich'?</i>	<i>Reliable analysis</i>	<i>Convincing findings</i>	<i>Findings relevant</i>	<i>Adequate conclusions</i>		
	Rigorous	Rich	Reliable	Convincing	Relevant	Adequate		
	Data analysis was by two reviewers who analysed the tapes and elicited clear themes.	Data was reported as 'rich' although there was no comparative analysis across sites or groups of patients.	Yes. Two authors analysed the data and there was 'peer de-briefing' as well.	Themes are clearly presented with adequate discussion.	See narrative.	See narrative.		

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Stenwall (2008)	<i>Qualitative Approach</i>	<i>Study purpose</i>	<i>Defensible/rigorous research design/methodology</i>	<i>Data collection methods</i>	<i>Role of researcher described</i>	<i>Context clearly described</i>	<i>Methods reliable</i>	<i>Reporting of ethical considerations</i>
	Appropriate	Clear	Defensible	Appropriate	Clear	Clear	Not Sure	Clear
	Purpose of study: to explore encounters.	Aim: To understand the experience of older patients with delirium when encountering professional carers and close relatives.	Method: latent content analysis.	Comments: Open interviews specifically addressed research question.	Questions provided.	The context specifically chosen to address the needs of older people.	One interview lasting 25-65 minutes. Five were conducted in hospital and two at home.	Study had Ethics Committee approval.
Analysis								
	<i>Sufficiently rigorous</i>	<i>Are the data 'rich'?</i>	<i>Reliable analysis</i>	<i>Convincing findings</i>	<i>Findings relevant</i>	<i>Adequate conclusions</i>		
	Rigorous	Not sure/not reported	Reliable	Convincing	Relevant	Adequate		
	Seven steps (Graneheim & Lundman) in procedure. Analysis by two authors. Comments by two more authors. Consensus methods used.	In depth contextual elements no described.	See above.	Well supported themes.	See narrative.	Conclusions and interpretation are linked.		

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Stenwall (2008)	<i>Qualitative Approach</i>	<i>Study purpose</i>	<i>Defensible/rigorous research design/methodology</i>	<i>Data collection methods</i>	<i>Role of researcher described</i>	<i>Context clearly described</i>	<i>Methods reliable</i>	<i>Reporting of ethical considerations</i>
	Appropriate	Clear	Defensible	Appropriate	Clear	Clear	Reliable	Clear
	In order to elucidate an experience, qualitative methods are appropriate.	Aim: To elucidate and understand the lived experience of close relatives encountering an older person with acute confusional syndrome.	Method: A phenomenological methodology was used to abstract the experiences of relatives of patients with acute confusional syndrome.	Single interviews with 10 relatives between 35 – 90 minutes each were tape recorded.	A description of the phenomenological reduction was provided.	Participants, settings and potential biases were well described.	Methodology was adequate for the purposes of this research. Only one method was used.	Ethics Committee approval given.
Analysis								
	<i>Sufficiently rigorous</i>	<i>Are the data 'rich'?</i>	<i>Reliable analysis</i>	<i>Convincing findings</i>	<i>Findings relevant</i>	<i>Adequate conclusions</i>		
	Rigorous	Rich	Reliable	Convincing	Relevant	Adequate		
	Data analysis was by two authors.	Data was reported as 'rich' although contract across groups was lacking (ethnicity in particular).	Yes. Two authors analysed the data and discrepancies were settled by consensus.	Data is referenced and clearly presented.	See narrative.	See narrative.		