

Impact of critical illness on ICU family members after a month from discharge

A Phenomenological Study

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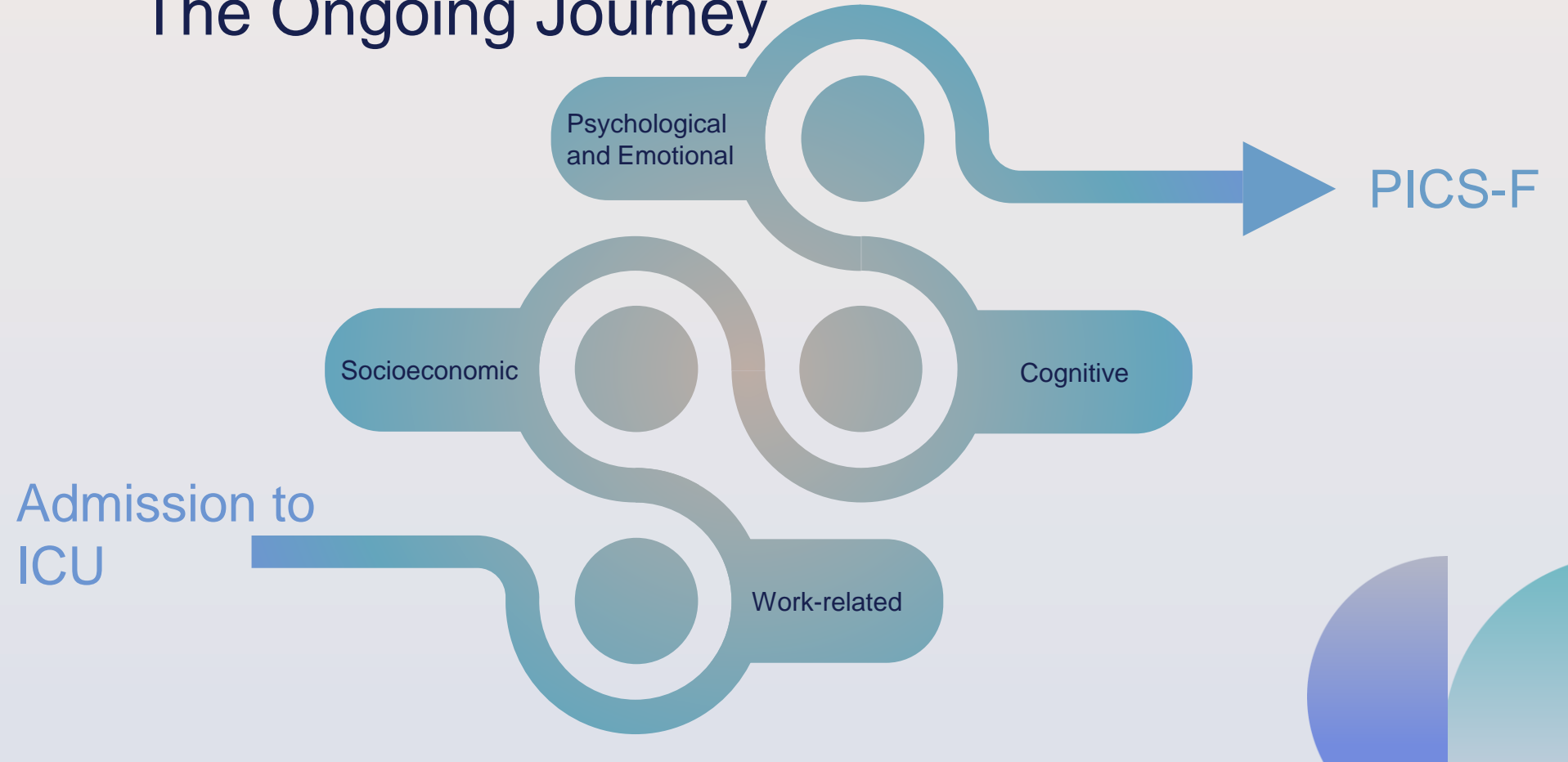
Trotta F, Meucci B, Simeone S, Pucciarelli G.



Introduction

01

The Ongoing Journey



Psychological
and Emotional

Socioeconomic

Cognitive

Work-related

PICS-F

Admission to
ICU

2. Aim

Understanding how these experiences affect the **Quality of Life** of family members' post-discharge after a month



3. Method

Descriptive Phenomenology

Involves "**bracketing**" or suspending all prior assumptions to capture the pure essence of the participants' experiences, seeking to describe the experiences of caregivers as they lived them, without imposing our interpretations.

Interpretive Phenomenology

Acknowledges that researchers inevitably bring their own understanding to the analysis, and these interpretations help to uncover deeper meanings embedded in the participants' narratives.

Cohen's Method

Bracketing

Researchers' preconceived notions, biases, and previous knowledge are set aside

Data Collection

In-depth, semi-structured interviews conducted via video calls

Participants Selection

Convenience sampling to recruit 21 participants from a University Hospital in Rome, Italy

Interviews

One month after the patient's discharge. Each interview was recorded and transcribed verbatim

Data Analysis

was iterative and involved constant reflection and dialogue among the research team

Saturation

was achieved, meaning that no new themes or insights were emerging from the interviews

Ensuring Rigour

Triangulation

Involving multiple researchers in the analysis process helped to cross-validate the findings.

Member Checking

Participants were given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the interpretations of their interviews.

Audit Trial

Detailed records of all research activities were maintained, allowing others to follow the research process and verify the findings.



Single
open-ended
question

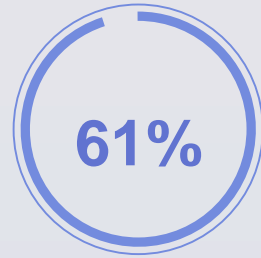
"How has this experience affected your quality of life, specifically in the **psychological, cognitive,** and **social** domains?"

4. Findings

Sample Characteristics



Male



Female

Themes

The background features several overlapping silhouettes of human heads in profile, facing right, in various shades of blue and purple. Interspersed among these silhouettes are several speech bubbles of different sizes and colors, also in shades of blue and purple. Each speech bubble contains a theme name in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

Helplessness

Unknown

Family Burden

**Sudden
Life Change**

**(Re)discovering
the value of
Affections**

Interviews

"The thing that hurts the most is not being able to do anything. It seems that the only thing that can be done is to show up during the time that I am given. It is a sense of helplessness, especially toward my partner for whom I would like to do something, but beyond that I don't know what can be done"



AR, partner

"I live things to the fullest. I don't know how others do it, but I'm not content to say 'life is made this way.' I question a lot about the meaning of life, the deeper meaning. We give importance to so many trifles and then in front of events like these you realize that there are things that are worth much more"




AU, son

A broader implication for critical illness

Despite the challenges, there is room for **positive outcomes**—where families come together and find strength in their shared experiences



Family-Centred Care

A healthcare worker in full personal protective equipment (PPE), including a white hood, face shield, and gloves, is leaning over a patient in an ICU bed. The patient is also wearing a mask and PPE. The scene is dimly lit, with medical equipment visible in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue circle on the left and a semi-transparent light blue circle at the bottom left. The text 'Multifaceted impact of critical illness on ICU survivors' families' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Multifaceted impact
of critical illness on
ICU survivors'
families**

5. Future Implications



Effective Communication



Family-Centred Care Approach



Tailored Interventions

Thanks

Do you have any questions?
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