

The Lived Experiences of Family Members of Covid-19 Patients Admitted to Intensive Care Unit: A Phenomenological Study

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Abstract

Introduction: Families of patients admitted to COVID-Intensive Care Unit (ICU) could not communicate and stay close to their loved one, becoming completely dependent on hospital staff for remote updates.

Objectives: To describe the lived experiences of family members who have a COVID-19 patient admitted to a COVID-ICU. **Methods:** A phenomenological study has been conducted. The subjects were interviewed with an open question to allow them full freedom of expression. The researchers involved in the analysis immersed themselves in the data, each independently, reading and re-reading the transcripts, in order to get a sense of the entire data set.

Results: 14 first-degree family members were recruited; five main themes emerged: fear, detachment, life on standby, family-related loneliness in COVID-ICU and unexpected event.

Conclusion: Knowing the experience of families who have a relative in COVID-ICU is essential to recognize and reduce the risk of developing symptoms related to post-intensive care syndrome.

Biography

Davide Bartoli is a doctoral student in University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome (IT). His research focuses on the caregiver and patient dyad, in particular in the field of intensive care and stroke. He currently works as a nurse at the Sant'Andrea University Hospital in Rome (IT) in ICU and holds the role of lecturer in Nursing Sciences for the Sapienza University of Rome, at the Faculty of Medicine and Psychology, since 2019.