

# Personal experiences of older hospitalised patients suffering from delirium, their family members, and hospital nurses

Published: 30-06-2015

Last updated: 14-04-2024

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<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Recruitment stopped
<b>Health condition type</b>	Deliria (incl confusion)
<b>Study type</b>	Observational non invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON42003

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

The experience of delirium

### Condition

- Deliria (incl confusion)

### Synonym

Acute confusion, Delirium

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Universiteit Maastricht

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Ministerie van OC&W

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Aged, Delirium, Experience, Hospital

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

This is a qualitative study. The primary objective of the study is to find what the personal experiences are of older hospitalised patients, family (naaste), and the hospital nurses caring for these patients.

### Secondary outcome

Not applicable

## Study description

### Background summary

Delirium is a serious complication that affects between 14% and 40% of all older hospital patients, and which could be avoided in up to 40% of these cases, by employing early detection methods and taking preventive measures. The American Psychiatric Association describes delirium as a disorder of fluctuating consciousness with cognitive problems, such as memory loss, disorientation, and language problems, which develops in a matter of hours or days, as a result of an underlying physical condition. It is a predictor of many negative long term consequences, such as prolonged duration of hospitalisation, higher chances of dementia and institutionalisation, less functional recovery, and death within 12 months after the delirium.

In the last two decades, a lot of research has been done in the fields of diagnosis, risk factors, consequences, and treatments for delirium. This has resulted in, amongst other things, the development of guidelines for the treatment of delirium in adults (richtlijn \*Delier voor volwassenen\*). However, little is known about how patients, their family members, and hospital nurses experience the delirium. Previous research shows that in some cases depression or post-traumatic stress disorder can occur, both in patients and in family members, and that some patients refuse further hospital treatments out of fear of developing another delirium. Nurses too experience elevated levels

of stress and pressure, sometimes leading to a burn-out, when working with delirious patients, because this group of patients need more time and attention than do regular patients, and information about the disorder is often not on hand. To our knowledge, this is the first study to combine the points of view of all three groups simultaneously: patients, family members, and hospital nurses.

## **Study objective**

The research question for this study is: \*What are the personal experiences of older hospital patients who have suffered a delirium, their family members, and their handling nurses?\*

The aim of the current study is to gather the personal experiences of older patients, their family members (naasten) and hospital nurses, and to gain insights into how this experience could be improved, for example by providing more information or support, before, during, and after the delirious episode.

## **Study design**

The study is a qualitative study based on the principles of grounded theory, and will be done using semi-structured interviews.

Before the start of the actual study, three pilot interviews (one with a patient, one with a family member, and one with a nurse) will be done to evaluate the clarity and usefulness of the questions and if the intended information can be obtained. All interviews will be audio-recorded with consent of the participants.

## **Study burden and risks**

The interviews will last a maximum of one hour, and the potential risk for participants is low. In case a participant experiences negative emotions due to the interview, they may stop the interview at any time and refuse further participation in the study.

Interviews with patients are planned during their routine follow-up at the delirium poli in the MUMC+, six weeks after release from the hospital. Interviews with patients are only conducted if they are no longer suffering from the delirium. Interviews with family and nurses will take place at a place and time previously agreed upon.

## **Contacts**

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## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

Patients:

- Suffered from a delirium during their hospital stay
- Age 65 years or older
- Admitted to the MUMC+
- Recovered from the delirium
- Speaks and understands Dutch;Family:
- Age 18 years or older
- Visited the patient at least twice during their delirious episode
- Speaks and understands Dutch;Nurses:
- Seen the patients at least once during their delirious episode

### Exclusion criteria

Patients:

- A dementia diagnosis set prior to the interview

## Study design

### Design

**Study type:** Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Other

### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 16-09-2016

Enrollment: 45

Type: Actual

## Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 30-06-2015

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 30-05-2016

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

**Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register**

No registrations found.

**In other registers**

Register	ID
CCMO	NL52436.068.15