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EAGS conference  
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**Cancer patients experiences of sensory impressions in an acute environment - Coping while being in transition and hospitalized**

Submitted by Connie Timmermann, RN, Ph.D. student

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- Does sensory impressions in the hospital environment influence cancer patients ability to cope with the experience of transition?




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**Introduction**

- Florence Nightingale
- Recent nursing philosophy



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**Existing quantitative based research**

Important patient outcome from a positive healthcare environment (Ulrich 1984, 2003, 2004, 2008):

- shorter stay at the hospital
- less amount of painkillers
- a positive influence on anxiety, pain and stress

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### Aim of the study

- To explore and describe how sensory impressions from the hospital environment such as architecture, decoration and interior affects cancer patients lived experiences of coping while being in transition

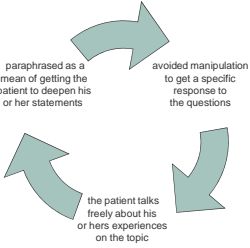


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### Design

- The study was designed as a qualitative semi-structured interview study
- An interview guide with research questions was produced




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### Participants

- Six cancer patients in the age of 61-89 were randomly included
- The inclusion criteria's were:
  - adults
  - both genders
  - positive ability of speaking and understanding Danish
  - diagnosed with cancer



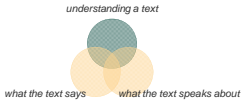
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### Data analysis

French philosopher Paul Ricoeur (1979, 2002)


- naive reading
- structural analysis
- critical interpretation



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### Findings



**To preserve identity:**

- *The meaning of the recognizable – to feel at home*
- *A view to nature – remembering who you are*

**To strengthen courage:**


- *The opportunity to think of something else than illness*
- *To bring forth the positive thoughts and feelings*

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### Conclusion

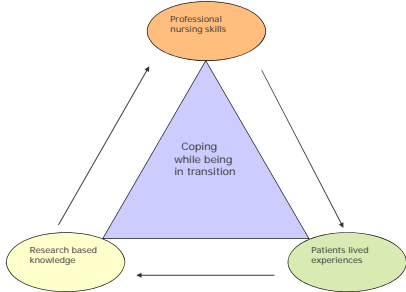
- Helps patients to preserve identity when the environment is recognizable and more homelike and offers a possibility of viewing nature
- Positive sensory impressions and the opportunity for recreation through environmental facilities strengthen the patient's courage



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### Implications for clinical nursing practice



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Thank you for your attention

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