



The challenge of caring for incontinence: The experience of family caregivers of stroke survivors



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Purpose

1. Understand the experience of caring for incontinence of family caregivers of older stroke survivors.

Methodology

1. A qualitative research design with in-depth interviews of the family .
2. Ten family caregivers of older stroke patients with incontinence were recruited.
3. Interviews were carried out with participants from different age groups and with differing relationships to the patient.

Result

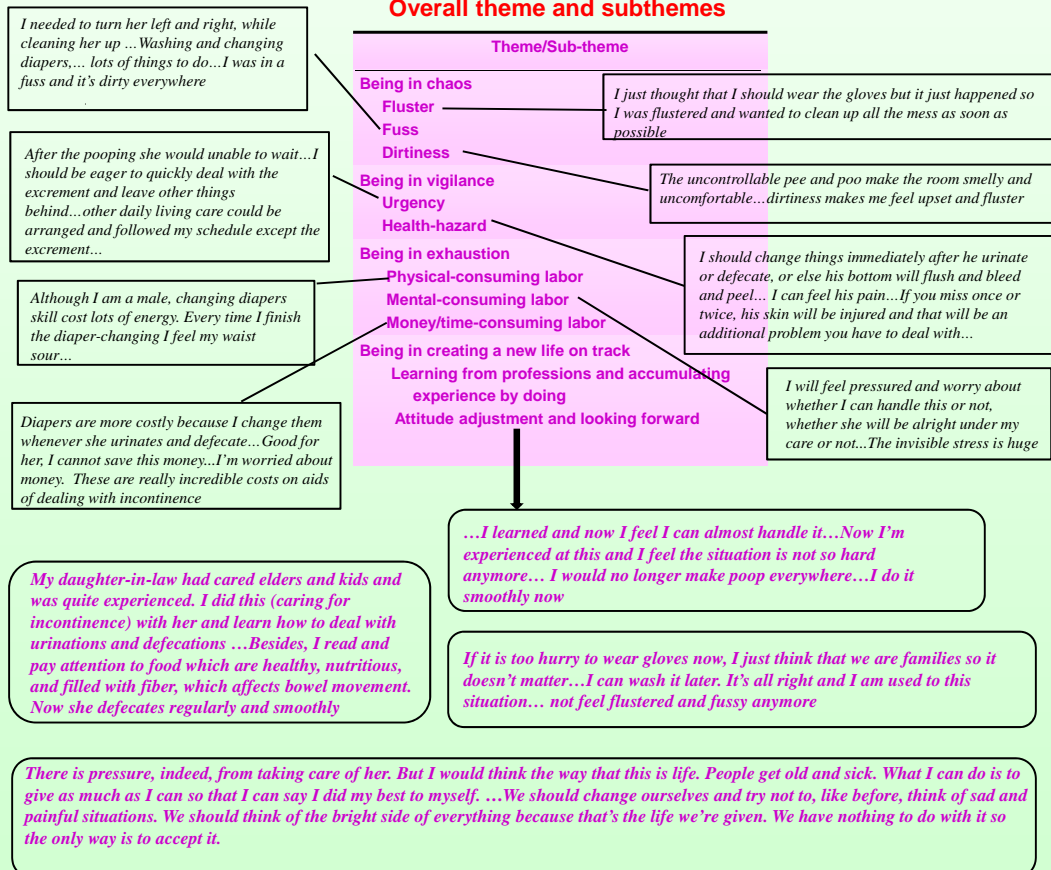
Characteristics of the participants (n = 10)

Variable	No.
Gender	
Male	2
Female	8
Age	
20-40	4
41-64	3
65+	3
Relationship	
Spouse	2
Daughter/Son	4
Daughter or Son in law	2
Grandson/Granddaughter	2
Employment	
Yes	0
No	10

Characteristics of the patients (n = 10)

Variable	No.
Gender	
Male	5
Female	5
Age	
65-74	4
75-84	4
85+	2
Incontinence	
Only Urinary	3
Only Fecal	0
Dual	7
Barthel Index	
0-20 (total dependent)	9
61-90 (moderate dependent)	1

Overall theme and subthemes



Conclusion

1. A progress of mental reactions of family caregivers in caring for older stroke relatives with incontinence is proposed.
2. Adjusting individual attitude toward a more positive, forward-looking process can help caregivers to build a bridge over their difficulties and keep on undertaking the tasks of care.
3. Caregivers are eager to gain the technical support from health care professionals and the substantial financial support from government to help in recreating their new lives.
4. To assist health personnel in better supporting this vulnerable population meet their needs in caring for older stroke relatives with incontinence.

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