

The struggle to be connected in disconnecting times

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Background

- Significant impact of Covid-19 on (mental) healthcare
- Challenging times especially for relatives and patients
- How do relatives experience their relationship with caregivers and patients? (Aim of the study)

Methods

- Phenomenological research design
- 15 semi-structured individual interviews with relatives
- Thematic analysis and research triangulation

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Core insights:

Unravelling hindering and promoting factors affecting relatives' sense of attunement and connection with caregivers and patients during the care process



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Discussion & conclusion

- Relatives depending on caregivers to connect
- Nurses' advocacy role for relatives and patients
- Exploring, discussing and (re-)assessing regularly the needs of relatives and how they want to be involved

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