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| Supplementary Table 1. COREQ (COnsolidated criteria for REporting Qualitative research) Checklist | | | |
| **Topic** | **Item No.** | **Guide Questions/Description** | **Reported in section** |
| **Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity** | | | |
| *Personal characteristics* | | | |
| Interviewer/facilitator | 1 | Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group? | Data collection,  3rd paragraph |
| Credentials | 2 | What were the researcher’s credentials? E.g. PhD, MD | Data collection,  3rd paragraph |
| Occupation | 3 | What was their occupation at the time of the study? | Data collection,  3rd paragraph |
| Gender | 4 | Was the researcher male or female? | Data collection,  3rd paragraph |
| Experience and training | 5 | What experience or training did the researcher have? | Data collection,  3rd paragraph |
| *Relationship with participants* | | | |
| Relationship established | 6 | Was a relationship established prior to study commencement? | Data collection,  1st paragraph |
| Participant knowledge of the interviewer | 7 | What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research | Setting,  3rd paragraph |
| Interviewer characteristics | 8 | What characteristics were reported about the inter viewer/facilitator? e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic | Setting,  3rd paragraph |
| **Domain 2: Study design** | | | |
| *Theoretical framework* | | | |
| Methodological orientation and Theory | 9 | What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis | Data analysis |
| *Participant selection* | | | |
| Sampling | 10 | How were participants selected? e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball | Setting,  1st paragraph |
| Method of approach | 11 | How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email | Setting,  2nd Paragraph |
| Sample size | 12 | How many participants were in the study? | Sampling & Recruitment, 2nd paragraph |
| Non-participation | 13 | How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons? | Sampling & Recruitment, 2nd paragraph |
| *Setting* | | | |
| Setting of data collection | 14 | Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace | Data collection,  1st & 4th paragraphs |
| Presence of nonparticipants | 15 | Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers? | Data collection,  1st & 4th paragraphs |
| Description of sample | 16 | What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g. demographic data, date | Table 1 |
| *Data collection* | | | |
| Interview guide | 17 | Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested? | Data collection,  2nd paragraph |
| Repeat interviews | 18 | Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many? | Data collection,  1st paragraph |
| Audio/visual recording | 19 | Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data? | Data collection,  4th paragraph |
| Field notes | 20 | Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group? | Data collection,  4th paragraph |
| Duration | 21 | What was the duration of the inter views or focus group? | Data collection,  4th paragraph |
| Data saturation | 22 | Was data saturation discussed? | Data collection,  3rd paragraph |
| Transcripts returned | 23 | Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction? | Data collection,  4th paragraph |
| **Domain 3: analysis and findings** | | | |
| *Data analysis* | | | |
| Number of data coders | 24 | How many data coders coded the data? | Data analysis |
| Description of the coding tree | 25 | Did authors provide a description of the coding tree? | Data analysis, Supplementary table 2 |
| Derivation of themes | 26 | Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data? | Data analysis |
| Software | 27 | What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data? | Data analysis |
| Participant checking | 28 | Did participants provide feedback on the findings? | Data analysis |
| *Reporting* | | | |
| Quotations presented | 29 | Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotation identified? e.g. participant number | Tables 2-5 |
| Data and findings consistent | 30 | Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings? | Results,  Tables 1-5 |
| Clarity of major themes | 31 | Were major themes clearly presented in the findings? | Results, Themes 1 & 2 |
| Clarity of minor themes | 32 | Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes? | Results,  Minor themes |
| From: https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/coreq/ | | | |

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| Supplementary Table 2. Coding tree. |
| Theme 1 – Treatment-Related Triggers   * + 1A - Procedure-Related Triggers     - Anesthesia     - Baths     - Blood     - Catheterization     - Cold hands     - Darkness     - Enclosed spaces     - Examined-touched     - Held down     - Insertion     - Laying down     - Mouth being covered     - Pain     - Physical closeness     - Radiotherapy     - Stillness     - Talking about body/discussing private parts     - Undressed-exposed     - Whispering in my ear   + 1B - Provider-Related Triggers     - Being alone with doctor     - Doctors knew history     - Feeling objectified     - Lack of empathy-understanding     - Male gender     - Older male     - Multiple providers     - Personality characteristics     - Physician as stranger/new     - Questioning     - Students-trainees   + 1C - Emotional Triggers     - Anxiety     - Dependence     - Feeling broken     - Feeling trapped     - Mistrust     - Powerlessness-Vulnerability     - Uncertainty     - Violated     - Shame   Theme 2 - Questioning meaning of cumulative trauma (Why me again?)   * + - Cursed/unlucky/victimized     - I'm bad     - Why me again?     - World is unfair     - I've been through enough     - Pessimism/hopelessness     - Cancer as punishment/self-blame |