Qualitative data

Using qualitative data in a clinical trial context

amy.ferry@ed.ac.uk

RCN International Research conference 2019
Trends in hospital admissions with myocardial infarction and chest pain

Myocardial infarction
Chest pain

Year


RCN International Research conference 2019

Goodacre et al. HTA 2013: 17 (1) 1-188
Diagnosis of myocardial infarction

01. Signs of myocardial ischaemia on the ECG
02. Clinical symptoms
03. Rise in troponin
Timing of troponin testing

- Onset of chest pain
- Peak concentration

Troponin concentration, ng/L

0hr

10-12hrs

Hours

RCN International Research conference 2019
Development of the High-STEACS pathway

[Diagram showing the High-STEACS pathway]

www.clinicaltrials.gov number: NCT01852123


RCN International Research conference 2019
Qualitative methods

**Patient experience**
- Phase 1 Pre early discharge pathway
- Phase 2 Post early discharge pathway
- 1 week post discharge
- In-depth interview (n=23)
- In-depth interview (n=26)

**Clinician experience**
- Semi-structured interviews ‘Think aloud’ methodology

RCN International Research conference 2019
Oh, that...that...it...it then went from, I’ve got a pain in my chest to, I’ve got a pain in my chest and someone thinks that my symptoms are serious. Um, so it...it escalated a wee bit. So I went from thinking, well, maybe there’s something wrong to, well, it’s maybe more than a maybe.
“They hooked me up to the ECG machine, and took blood pressure, very, very quickly. Erm, didn't say anything about any of the, the machines or anything. It was, it was very fast. Slightly, a bit concerned why everything was moving so fast.”

“Em, and then I thought, oh, no. Then it was...slight panic set in, because I thought, it’s not as straight forward as I thought. Em...what if they have found something?”

Validation of symptoms
I just know there’s something going on. There’s a chest pain, whether or not it’s my heart I don’t know. That’s the thing that makes me anxious.
“You know, they were...well they were confident it wasn't a heart attack and that was it, like, you know. I don't know if I still could see me having a heart attack...”

“I felt as though nobody had done anything to help. It was right, you can go out, you can go home. Nobody had helped me because I still felt the same as when I went in.”

“There’s always been an element of incompleteness, where I felt like it was complete this time. It felt like it came to an end.”
• Pre-test information
• Trust
• Clinician-patient int
“I suppose you’ve still got that niggling thing, as I say, there, but okay, this wasn’t a heart attack as such, but it doesn’t mean that there’s not, that I’m totally fit and healthy and not at risk of it… are they saying I’ve got a healthy heart, or are they just saying, you haven’t had a heart attack?”

- Improve cardiovascular health
Patient Summary

- Pre-hospital
- Reassurance
- Future health
### Clinician experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approach</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Interview method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual e-mail</td>
<td>5 Consultants 2 Nurse practitioners</td>
<td>7 individual interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permission to attend end of Registrar teaching session</td>
<td>6 Registrars</td>
<td>1 group interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permission to attend end of junior doctor teaching session</td>
<td>8 Junior doctors</td>
<td>2 group interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal approach</td>
<td>2 Nurse practitioners 1 ST1</td>
<td>1 group interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 individual interview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Formulation of study population

RCN International Research conference 2019
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Immediate resuscitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Very Urgent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Urgent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Non-urgent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hospital factors

RCN International Research conference 2019
Patient factors

So it’s personalities you’re dealing with as well, not just physical issues.

I wouldn’t have done that troponin so I would ignore that.

It’s elevated so you have to repeat it.
Suspected acute coronary syndrome

Discharge from the Emergency Department