**Introduction**

Little is known about the experiences of patients suffering Korsakoff’s syndrome, their professional health carers (doctors and nurses) and their family carers. Each of these groups has its own interests and values. Most of these patients are admitted involuntarily. This study aims to learn from personal experiences to provide good care for patients suffering (the onset of) Korsakoff’s syndrome. To do justice to our research aim, this research will be multi-disciplinary. After all, several scientific perspectives are at the core of the subject, three of which will be discussed: legal, ethical and care perspective.

**Main questions**

1. What are the experiences of the different actors in the care giving process surrounding the admission?
2. How can we describe the care seeking process from the different perspectives to a special Korsakoff unit in a nursing home?
3. Which theoretical and ethical principles play a major role during the involuntary admission process?

**Method**

In this study we chose a grounded theory influenced approach. Our goal was to explore, describe, understand and make theoretical reflections on the health care practices of patients suffering Korsakoff’s syndrome before and during the involuntary admission. We followed the grounded theory influenced approach in her way of gathering and analysing data. Interviews were held and analysed within each group, between groups and from the perspective of the process.

**Current Work**

We analysed the family perspective. Little is known about the struggles the family experiences’ trying to find appropriate care for their relative suffering Korsakoff’s syndrome. The relative is denying the problem and misses insight into his/her illness. We found ‘imposing care’ as the core concept. Within this concept we recognised three dimensions from the family perspective. During imposing care the tension between breaking the autonomy and restoring human dignity plays an important role. The family constantly has to switch between an insiders’ perspective and outsiders’ perspective, which shows their compassion for the patient.

Currently we are analysing the patients’ perspective.

**Future Work**

1. The interviews with the professional health carers will be analysed and explored.
2. The issue of competence of this patient group will be reflected and analysed from a legal, moral and ethical perspective.

**Contact information**

Susanne van den Hooff MSc LL.M PhD candidate University of Humanistic Studies
Inholland University of Applied Sciences, Cluster Management, MER
Kamer A252, Bergerweg 200, 1817 MN Alkmaar, the Netherlands
Email: susanne.vandenhooff@inholland.nl

**Publications**


Hooff van den SL, Goossensen A. Experiences of family carers and their moral dilemmas arranging involuntary admission for relatives without insight into their own illness; a qualitative study. (submitted)

Hooff van den SL, Goossensen A. How to increase quality of care during coercive admission? A review of literature. (accepted for publication in Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences)

Hooff van den SL, Goossensen A. Value of patient knowledge. (in progress)