

# Perceived needs of people with dementia in perioperative environments: a healthcare professionals perspective



**AUTHORS**

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## BACKGROUND

- 944,000** people are estimated of living with dementia in the UK
- 1/4** of hospital beds are occupied by patients with dementia
- 55%** of all surgical procedures are older patients +65
- Higher risk** of postoperative negative outcomes for people with dementia

## METHODOLOGY

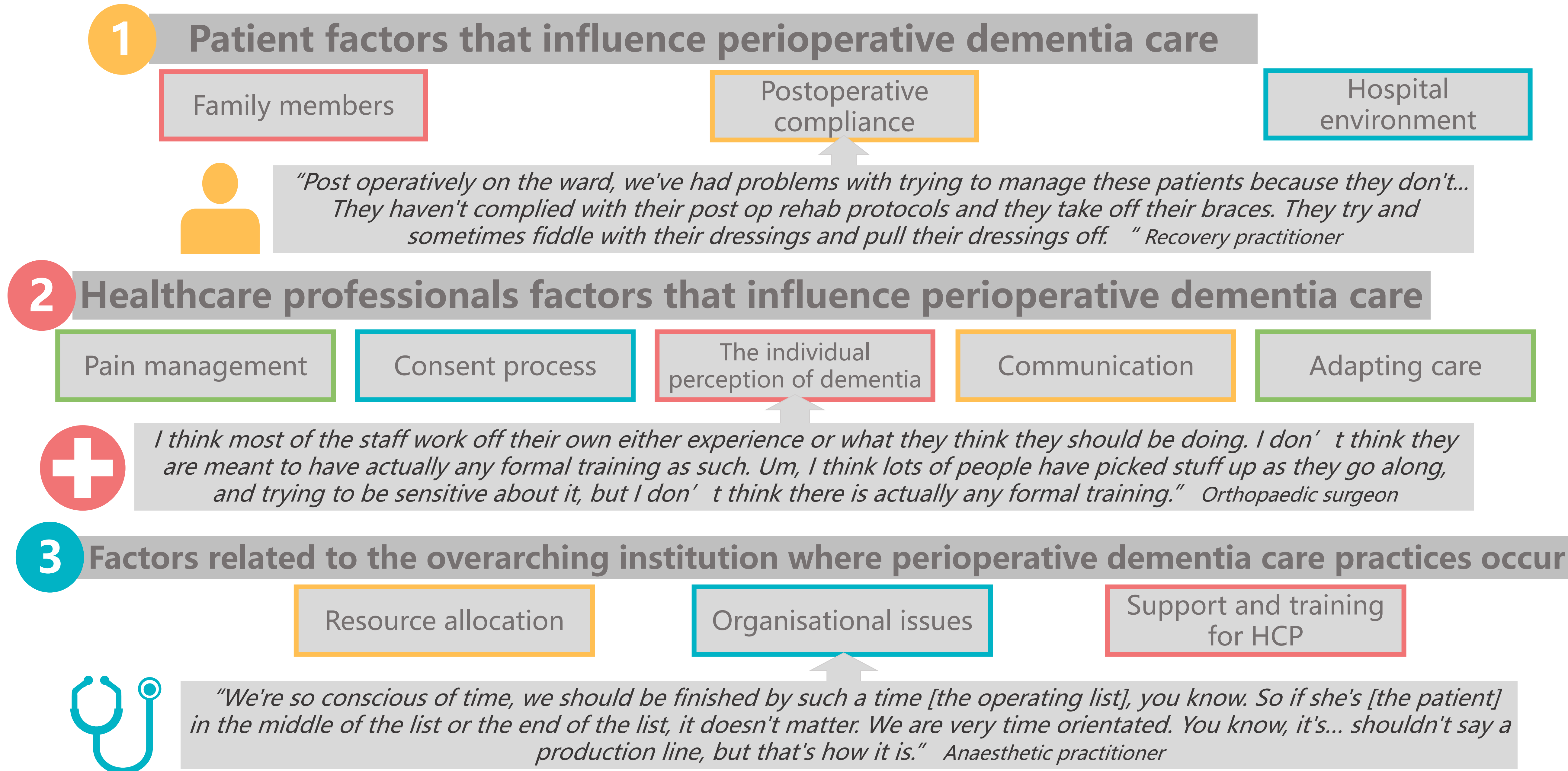
- Qualitative research**  
To achieve a deeper understanding of phenomena making new, significant distinctions
- Reflexive thematic analysis**  
Facilitates the identification, analysis, and interpretation of patterns (themes) within datasets
- Semi-structured interviews**  
To generate in-depth descriptions and interpretations of the topic under study
- 30 perioperative HCP roles**  
To capture a diverse range of perspectives in perioperative dementia care

**Aim:** To describe the factors that influence the perioperative care of people with dementia and identify care needs from the perspective of healthcare professionals

## RESULTS

Participant characteristics		Total=30
<b>Role</b>		
<b>Theatres based</b>	Anaesthetists	10
	Recovery practitioners	5
	Anaesthetic Practitioners	3
	Scrub Practitioners	1
	Surgeons	5
	Theatre support healthcare	1
<b>Ward based</b>	Ward based nurses	2
	Perioperative Clinicians	3
<b>Gender</b>	Female	16
	Male	14

## FINDINGS – 3 MAIN THEMES



## DISCUSSION

- Need to involve family members actively** • Family members to participate in care and decision-making
- Need to develop and implement dementia perioperative protocols and training** • Multidisciplinary approaches to develop tailored perioperative plans  
• Dementia-focused care protocols to standardise best practices in perioperative settings  
• Specialised training to improve HCPs communication skills and ability to manage dementia-related symptoms
- Need to enhance environmental adjustments** • Calm, familiar settings with minimal personnel and noise  
• Allow personal items during the surgical trajectory
- Improve Pain Management** • Train HCP to recognise non-verbal pain cues in PwD, assess and manage it  
• Pain management practices adapted to meet the specific needs of PwD
- Support perioperative HCP** • Adequate workload and time constraints to allow care for PwD  
• Enhance the visibility and availability of dementia-specialists roles