



Exploration of outcomes of severe hand burn injuries from the perspectives of the consumers

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Background

Burns injuries interrupt both physical and psychological domains of daily life¹. Burn injuries to the hand impact how an individual interacts with the world around them across both physical and social environments². Deep dermal and full thickness burns require surgical management to achieve timely wound closure and intensive therapy to prevent contracture deformities³. Recovery from injury is an individualised process therefore understanding the perspective of the consumer will enhance our awareness of what outcomes are important to attain⁴.

Aim

The aim of this study was to explore the lived experience of hand burn injury outcomes.

Study Design

Interpretive description was used to guide a qualitative approach allowing for a in-depth exploration of semi structured interviews.

Ethics

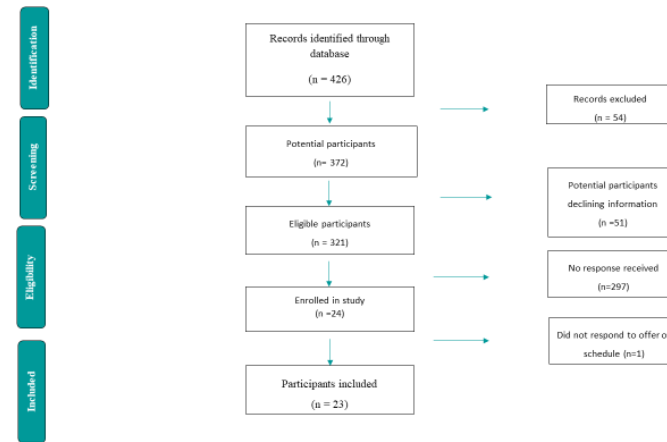
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital HREC:
HREC/18/QRBW/303; University of Queensland HREC:
2018002467; Griffith University HREC: 2019/017

Inclusion

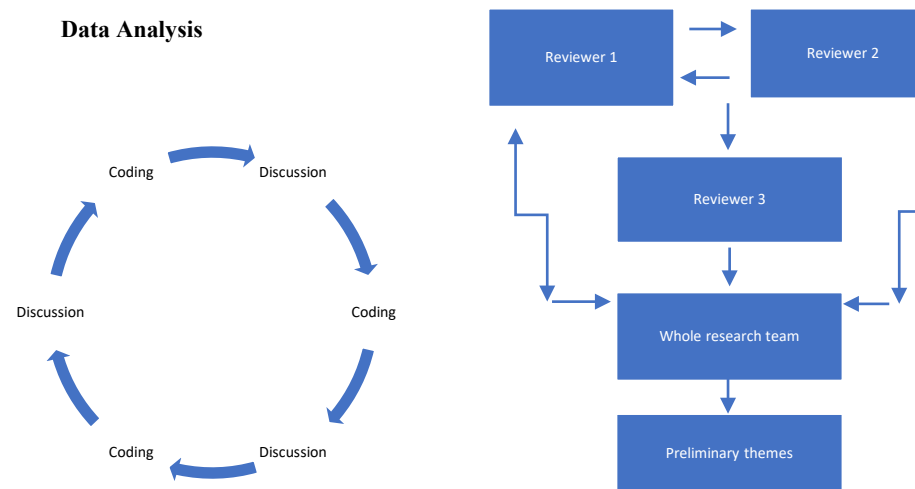
> 18 years, minimum of 18 months post injury, deep dermal/ full thickness hands burns requiring surgical management.

Procedure

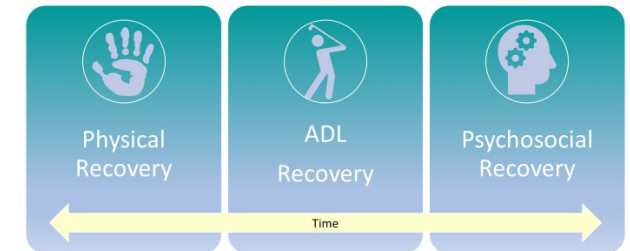
Potential participants were contacted by a staff members not involved in the study to determine if they would like to receive a study pack. A four week return time frame was provided. Upon receipt of a completed consent form, participants were enrolled in the study. Face to face and telephone interviews were offered. Interviews were audio recorded and transcripts were transcribed verbatim.



Data Analysis



Findings



Discussion

Measurement of individuals experiences provides insight into the perspectives of individuals accessing our health care systems⁴. The time taken for recovery was an element which appeared through all themes. Participants discussed the need for mastery with or without assistance as an important element of the recovery process. Early rehabilitation positively influences long term outcomes as described by Yohamman et al. ⁵ Time influence both physical and psychosocial recovery with participants accepting changes over time to varying degrees. Upon leaving the acute care setting, participants discussed becoming more self confident and with increased self management, this is similar to the findings of a study by Kamolz et al.⁶ Participants reported a strong awareness of their reliance and the resulting burden on others during their recovery period. Kool et al. (2017)⁷ described this as vulnerability and resilience post burn injury. As time past this burden also reduced.

Conclusion

The findings of the study suggest that hand burns interrupt physical and psychosocial recovery. The impact of a hand burn injury changes over time. Recovery is gradual. There is a need for a burn's specific outcome measure which measures performance which is sensitive to change over time.