REVIEW OF THE CHALLENGES AND EXPERIENCES OF THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF THE FAMILY MEMBER OF THE PATIENTS WITH BRAIN INJURIES ADMITTED TO ICU OF SHAHID RAJAYI HOSPITAL OF SHIRAZ IN 2015

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The purpose of this research is to review the challenges and experiences of the accompaniment of the family members of patients with brain injuries admitted to ICU of Shiraz’s Shahid Rajayi hospital in 2015. Method: in this descriptive phenomenological study, the research population has been composed of the families of the patients with brain injury admitted to ICU and participants were selected by using the purposeful sampling and with the approach of maximum difference regarding the relation with the patient, gender, age, cause of accident and type of damage or location of brain hemorrhage and entered the study. Informational saturation was obtained through 6 interviews which lacked structure and were deep. Ultimately, the gathered information was analyzed by using the colaizzi method. Findings: after analyzing the information, 173 codes of level 1 and 26 codes of the level 2 were obtained and the themes of this study, along with all subcategories, included the following items: 1- reaction to hospitalization in ICU (fear and stress, physical reactions, mental problems, being shocked and positive reactions), 2- their life being upside down, 3- confusion (bewilderment, informational needs and uncertainty). Conclusion: the results of this study provides a deep understanding of the experiences lived by the family members of the patients with brain injuries in the ICU for the authorities, nurses of the ICU, doctors and nursing students. It is hoped that the results of this
project would be helpful in identifying the experiences of the families and resolution of their problems and fulfillment of their needs and the results would be used in educational and treatment programs.

Keywords: Experiences, Family, Brain Injury, ICU

INTRODUCTION

Brain damage is one of the important issues of public health and socioeconomic problems of the human society throughout the world and it is considered as the main cause of disability in adults and the second cause of death in the world (Philip, et al. 2013). In America, about 5.3 million people live with disabilities related to brain injuries and this number is 7.7 millions of people in Europe (Roozenbeek, et al. 2013). In Iran, annually, 139 out of 100 thousands persons have brain damages and head injuries for the first time. This rate is considerably more than that of the developed countries. One of the most important causes of it can be high rates of accidents and brain injuries subsequent to them in Iran (Azarpazhooh, et al. 2010). In other words, diagnosis of the disease and hospitalization of one of the family members can create disorder in the totality of the family structure. During this period, it is possible for the family members to experience a change in their role and feel unsafe and scared (Maroiti, et al. 2008); because they do not have the sufficient mental preparation in order to face the issue of accepting a member of the family in the ICU (Huges, et al. 2005). Fear of death, uncertainty about the prognosis and treatment, emotional contrasts, concern about the economic conditions, a change in the roles and disorder in daily routines can be followed with family member’s reactions such as shock, rage, disappointment, anxiety and depression especially in the first 72 hours of hospitalization (L. Marci and Fox and Eshilishin, 2007).

RESEARCH METHOD

In this descriptive phenomenological study, the research population has been composed of the families of the patients with brain injury admitted to ICU and participants were selected by using the purposeful sampling and with the approach of maximum difference regarding the relation with the patient, gender, age, cause of accident and type of damage or location of brain hemorrhage and entered the study. Informational saturation was obtained through 6 interviews which lacked structure and were deep. Ultimately, the gathered
information was analyzed by using the colaizzi method.

**FINDINGS**

The codes extracted from the interviews express the classification of the extracted codes and axis concepts and research findings. The findings of this study have been collected through interviews which lack structure and were used in order to review the challenges and experiences of the accompaniment of the family members of patients with brain injuries admitted to ICU of Shiraz’s Shahid Rajai hospital in 2015. The findings in this chapter, mostly, the purpose of the research which is to review the challenges and experiences of the accompaniment of the family members of patients with brain injuries is expressed in the rest of this article. In order to analyze the data in this research, the colaizzi method has been used. In order to make how this method is used clearer, some step-but-step instances and data analysis are explained in this section. At the beginning of each example, the first three stages of the colaizzi method are expressed and then the other stages are reviewed. For instance, in the example number one, the text of the interview of one of the participants has been provided and this entire interview was studied several times in the first stage of colaizzi so that the researcher shall have control over the content of the interview. In this section, for each example, the three stages of colaizzi are expressed respectively:

**Example one**

**First stage of Colaizzi**

The stage of studying the text, which has been recommended in the first stage of colaizzi, participant number 1 said:

“I haven’t been to the ICU before, I only saw it in movies, and I always prayed for these patients; but when I got here, here is really the end line, you are now alone and your deeds and god also help you. When I came to this window and saw these devices, when I saw these numbers that are constantly changing, they were unclear to me, I was afraid. I only saw my father awake once and they had disconnected these respiratory devices, I became so happy as though the world has been given to me. Honestly, I couldn’t come to see my father, I was always afraid to lose my dearest here. You experience so much in the ICU. For example, in my experience, I got closer to god. I am not lying to you. You understand that death is so close to you. God forbid you commit a sin. You feel that death comes to you in a moment. When I saw that, god forbid, some of these patients were covered with white sheets and take them through this
door to the morgue, you clearly feel death. Whenever I saw that all of my body shook with fear and I went crazy. I kept on saying was that my dad, was that him... (cries). When I come and see these I fall apart. I don’t know, will he be better tomorrow? Or worse? God forbid this happen to anyone.”

**Second stage of Colaizzi**

After studying the text above several times, important sentences which were related to the phenomenon have been specified by the researcher and they were shown by him through underlining:

"I haven’t been to the ICU before, I only saw it in movies, and I always prayed for these patients; but when I got here, here is really the end line, you are no longer alone and your deeds and god also help you. When I came to this window and saw these devices, when I saw these numbers that are constantly changing, they were unclear to me, I was afraid. I only saw my father awake once and they had disconnected these respiratory devices, I became so happy as though the world has been given to me. Honestly, I couldn’t come to the window and see my father, I was always afraid to lose my dearest here. You experience so much in the ICU. For example, in my experience, I got closer to god. I am not lying to you. You understand that death is so close to you. God forbid you commit a sin. You feel that death comes to you in a moment. When I saw that, god forbid, some of these patients were covered with white sheets were and take them through this door to the morgue, you clearly feel death. Whenever I saw that all of my body shook with fear and I went crazy. I kept on saying was that my dad, was that him... (cries). When I come and see these I fall apart. I don’t know, will he be better tomorrow? Or worse? God forbid this happen to anyone.”

**Third stage of Colaizzi**

Raw information was reviewed several times in order to turning the important and related concepts to general and abstract concepts and it was attempted to understand to what extent the made up meanings are related to the preliminary phrases of the participants. In order to do this stage, according to Colaizzi’s comment, the researcher has attempted to conceptualize and formulize the extracted concepts. In this stage, the initial codes were extracted from the important sentences related to the discussed phenomenon which have been specified through underlining them. And the codification stage has been done as follows for the examples 1 to 4 which were mentioned in the previous stages.
The following initial codes have been extracted from the example number one in the third stage of Colaizzi:

- I haven’t been to the ICU before
- I only saw it in movies
- and I always prayed for these patients
- here is really the end line
- you are now alone with your deeds and god
- seeing the equipment and devices through the window
- numbers on the devices
- unclearness of the changing numbers on the devices
- I was scared
- I only saw my father waking up once
- They had disconnected his respiratory devices
- I was so happy
- As though the world was given to me
- Honestly, I could not come to the window to see my father
- I was always afraid to lose my dearest here
- You get closer to god
- You understand that death is so close to you
- You feel that death comes to you in a moment
- Some of these patients were covered with white sheets
- They were take them through this door to the morgue
- Feeling like you’re going to die
- All of my body shook with fear so much
- I went crazy
- I kept on saying was that my dad, was that him
- I fall apart
- I don’t know, will he be better tomorrow? Or worse?
- God forbid this happen to anyone.

Second example

First stage of Colaizzi

Like the example number 1, the following phrases are a part of the text of an interview which was studied and the participant number 2 stated that:

“We had no experience of being in the ICU ever before! And then when they said your patient wants to go to the ICU, a terrible fear came to us! We thought that ICU is like a very bad place. My father and brother were together when they had an accident. When I called my father on his cellphone, another man picked up and said: “they had an accident and they were taken to the Shahid Rajayi hospital! When I came to the hospital at first I could not find my father, I kept running around the hospital. No one gave a good answer to me. I looked everywhere. I kept asking everyone, no one frankly told me
that your patient is in the ICU. When they brought them to the hospital first, it seems that my brother and father were semiconscious and they had pronounced their names wrong. Then when I went to the screen to see whether or not they are there, they would nag that they are not here there! Go out soon! I said sir I called his cellphone they told me he has been bought here but here you say he is not here! Then I looked around until I finally found them. When I found out that they had taken him to the ICU, my whole world crumbled down. My head was heavy with the load of the whole world. I no longer felt like myself. Believe me it was better if I died then because my father is our dearest. He is our supporter. My mother, my brother and sister and I don’t have anyone but him in the world. I swear to god.”

Second stage of Colaizzi
Like the example number 1, after studying the text above several times, the important sentences which were related to the phenomenon have been specified by the researcher and they were shown by him through underlying:

“We had no experience of being in the ICU ever before! And then when they said your patient wants to go to the ICU, a terrible fear came to us! We thought that ICU is like a very bad place. My father and brother were together when they had an accident. When I called my father on his cellphone, another man picked up and said: “they had an accident and they were taken to the Shahid Rajayi hospital! When I came to the hospital at first I could not find my father, I kept running around the hospital. No one gave a good answer to me. I looked everywhere. I kept asking everyone, no one frankly told me that your patient is in the ICU. When they brought them to the hospital first, it seems that my brother and father were semiconscious and they had pronounced their names wrong. Then when I went to the screen to see whether or not they are there, they would nag that they are not here there! Go out soon! I said sir I called his cellphone they told me he has been bought here but here you say he is not here! Then I looked around until I finally found them. When I found out that they had taken him to the ICU, my whole world crumbled down. My head was heavy with the load of the whole world. I no longer felt like myself. Believe me it was better if I died then because my father is our dearest. He is our supporter. My mother, my brother and sister and I don’t have anyone but him in the world. I swear to god.”

Third stage of colaizzi
Like the example number 1, the following initial codes in the third stage of colaizzi
have been extracted from the example number two:

- No experience of being in the ICU
- They said your patient wants to go to the ICU, and a terrible fear came to us!
- We thought that ICU is like a very bad place
- They had an accident and they were taken to Shahid Rajayi hospital!
- When I came to the hospital at first I could not find my father
- I kept running around the hospital
- No one gave a good answer to me
- I kept asking everyone, no one frankly told me that your patient is in the ICU
- My brother and father were semiconscious and they had pronounced their names wrong
- I called his cellphone they told me he has been bought here but here you say he is not here
- I looked everywhere till I finally found them
- When I found out that they had taken him to the ICU, my whole world crumbled down
- My head was heavy with the load of the whole world
- I no longer felt like myself
- Believe me it was better if I died
- Because my father is our dearest

- He is our supporter
- None of us have anyone but him in the world, I swear to god

Third example

First stage of Colaizzi

Like the two previous examples, phrases of an interview in the three first stages of Colaizzi are expressed in this section and participant number 3 said:

“When they gave me the news that your patient has been taken to the ICU due to brain injury, I was confused. I quickly went to the ICU. I was surprised to my very core when I saw him through the window; I felt awful and lost my faith. When I saw my patient to whom pipes were connected, his eyes were closed, the skin around his eyes was blue, I was shocked. I couldn’t speak. I didn’t to what should I do now. Believe me, I forgot to breathe. I hadn’t been in the ICU before. I had heard that they said it is a very bad place but I didn’t know that it actually is. These devices scare you so much. Oh god when you see here your body shakes. When they told me to take my patient to the CT scan, I remained quiet. I couldn’t open my mouth to ask a simple question.”

Second stage of Colaizzi

Similar to the previous two examples, after studying the text above several times, the important sentences which were related to...
the phenomenon were specified by the research and they have been shown by underlining:

“When they gave me the news that your patient has been taken to the ICU due to brain injury, I was confused. I quickly went to the ICU. I was surprised to my very core when I saw him through the window; I felt awful and lost my faith. When I saw my patient to whom pipes were connected, his eyes were closed, the skin around his eyes was blue, I was shocked. I couldn’t speak. I didn’t to what should I do now. Believe me, I forgot to breathe. I hadn’t been in the ICU before. I had heard that they said it is a very bad place but I didn’t know that it actually is. These devices scare you so much. Oh god when you see here your body shakes. When they told me to take my patient to the CT scan, I remained quiet. I couldn’t open my mouth to ask a simple question.”

Third stage of Colaizzi

Similar to the previous two examples, raw information was reviewed several times in order to turning the important and related concepts to general and abstract concepts and it was attempted to understand to what extent the made up meanings are related to the preliminary phrases of the participants. In order to do this stage, according to Colaizzi’s comment, the researcher has attempted to conceptualize and formulize the extracted concepts. In this stage, the initial codes were extracted from the important sentences related to the discussed phenomenon which have been specified through underlining them. And the codification stage has been done as follows for the examples 1 to 4 which were mentioned in the previous stages.

Similar to the two previous examples, the following initial codes in the third stage of colaizzi have been extracted from the example number three:

✓ When they gave me the news that your patient has been taken to the ICU due to brain injury, I was confused
✓ I quickly went to the ICU
✓ I was surprised to my very core
✓ I felt awful
✓ I lost my faith there
✓ I saw my patient to whom pipes were connected, his eyes were closed, the skin around his eyes was blue, I was shocked
✓ I couldn’t speak
✓ I didn’t to what should I do now
✓ I forgot to breathe
✓ I hadn’t been in the ICU before
✓ I had heard that they said it is a very bad place
✓ I didn’t know that it actually is
✓ These devices scare you so much
✅ Oh god when you see here your body shakes
✅ When they told me to take my patient to the CT scan, I remained quiet
✅ I couldn’t open my mouth to ask a simple question

Data analysis
The data analysis stage was done for all interviews with the method above and its outcome is the extraction of initial codes all of which have been shown in table (1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row</th>
<th>Initial codes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I had heard that ICU is a very bad place but I didn’t know that it actually is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I was scared, I thought that ICU is like a very bad place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ICU is not a good place for you to go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>When they said that your patient is going to the ICU, a terrible fear came to us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Your body shakes when you see here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ICU is a very terrific place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>By seeing the patients under the sheets, in the ICU nonetheless, with its environment, I was scared and went crazy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Its name, its space, and its patients scares you very much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The mood of the place is full of stress and nothing else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>That place is so bad, you are worried it is terrifying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The constantly changing number on the devices are unclear to me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The equipment and devices of ICU make you stressful themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>These devices frighten you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>When they call me to come to the hospital I say to myself, oh do they want to revive him?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sometimes when my father moves his foot or coughs, I get more nervous and say he must be suffering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>We come up and ring the bell or call, they don’t answer at all. We feel a kind of stress. We say god what has happened? Oh god do they want to revive him oh god let it not be our patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Feeling death by seeing patients who are covered with sheets and are taken to the morgue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>I am always afraid to lose my beloved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>I am always afraid of coming to the ICU and seeing my dad has passed god forbid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>I asked what is the rate of his consciousness and they didn’t tell us, we were so afraid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Anytime I called my hands would shake so much that I wasn’t able to hold my phone in my father, I wondered whether it is good news or bad news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>You get scared seeing your patient like that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>I saw yesterday that his right hand shook a lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>One time I went to CT scan with him, I saw his nose was bleeding, I got worse and scared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>You get scared seeing your patient like that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>None of us have anyone other than our father in the whole world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>I have a brother who is not good, he hurts my father and mother, if my father is not at home, he will be worse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>If god forbid I lose my father, my whole life turns upside down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>None of us have anyone other than our father in the whole world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>My father’s soul was taken to the almighty god</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>You don’t understand what a pain it is so see your beloved die before your eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Once they were putting a pipe in his nose, I was so scared, he was moving so much he looked like a person who was dying I got so upset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>I am always afraid of what’s going to happen tomorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>I don’t know, will he get better or worse tomorrow?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>I am constantly scared of tomorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>When they told me my patient I was so scared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>I thought ST scan was a bad place, perhaps it is bad for it or dangerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>I always have nightmares and bad dreams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Around 3 A.M. I had a dream. It made me so scared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>I can’t sleep at nights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>I cried so much</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When I woke up my tears just came down
My hands were shaking
I haven’t a decent meal in 12 days
my mother neither eats nor drinks
That day I came and see that he was uncovered, there was a diaper. When I saw that I became so upset
so much so that I cried.
His friends and relatives come to see him, in the visit hours. It is not right for them to see him like this
This diaper itself is very painful for this
I tear up and say god, the almighty god, why should my father be like this?
It is so hard for me to see him like this
His hospital clothes have gone up and I saw the diaper, I was crushed
I said see what has happened to my father
It is not right for the other parts of his body to be shown
It is so bad, so difficult I swear to god
When I see all of these pipes and wires are connected to him, I become so upset
I swear to god I am so concerned they are butterflies in my stomach
When they tell me there has been no change in your patient, I become so upset
My mother is crying night and day
On the first day, behind the door of the section, I was just crying
I couldn’t have been calm
I no longer cried in front of my family
I had lost all my faith
It is so hard for me to see my father lying naked and lifeless
When I come to visit him, when I glance at him, I can no longer stand there
It is so hard
The sentry wouldn’t let us come in, we had to beg for three hours
We were so stressed behind the door of the ICU
The first days I cried so much
I was falling apart, I was so scared
I had lost my hope
We were surprised, we though ICU is like CCU, then I saw it is another place
I was having a heart attack I was so scared
I couldn’t go up the stairs
All of my body was loosened in a moment
I thought I had become mute
When I found out they had taken him to the ICU, my whole world came crumbling down
My head was heavy with the load of the whole world
I didn’t feel like myself
It would have been better if I died then
When I saw my patient to whom pipes were connected, his eyes were closed, the skin around his eyes
was blue, I was shocked
I couldn’t speak
I didn’t to what should I do now
Believe me, I forgot to breathe
When they told me to take my patient to the CT scan, I remained quiet
I couldn’t open my mouth to ask a simple question
The first day I saw my father in the ICU, I was shocked
I became mute
I couldn’t speak any more
I felt a shooting pain in my head
My blood couldn’t reach my head
I felt a shooting pain in my head
My blood couldn’t reach my head
When they gave me the news that your patient had been taken to the ICU due to brain injury, I
remained shocked
I was shockingly surprised
Right there I lost my faith
I felt kind of bad
It was the first time I had gone to the ICU and seen these devices, I was shocked
You know, you don’t have any information

I don’t know what this monitor is saying

What do the numbers on the monitor say? What does the middle device say?

When I come here, I go and take a look at other patients. It is both hard for me and calming when I look at them. Not that I become happy but when they see that they have patients just like me I don’t feel alone. It becomes more digestible for me I become calmer

I feel better and more confident when I talk to those who accompany the ICU patients. I see that I am not alone and it seems that there are others whose conditions are worse than us

But only when they tell me that the danger has passed it gives me hope

Some doctors are good (they tell you all about condition of your patient

We asked what has happened which they don’t tell us. Then it got better, we got along with it, we became more patient

I didn’t even think they let you watch your patient through the window of the ICU

But thank god you can easily come and see your patient through the window

When I touch his face I become peaceful

I saw that their patients woke up. This gives you a special feeling. It makes you calmer. We wanted to go inside and hug them. I took it to mean that our patients will be better too

But there is something good, the fact that there is a glass partition between the patients is very good. It makes you feel better that our patient is near others. It gives you peace. These patients have feelings and in this way they know that they are not alone

We asked what has happened which they don’t tell us. Then it got better, we got along with it, we became more patient

When we come to visit behind the window, we become happy, it affects us so much. We feel good that yes ICU is a better place. It is not as bad as they say

That they, I came behind the window and I saw his feet moving. I was relieved that no part of his have paralysis

I came pressed his feet

When they say the danger has passed, it gives me hope

When these kinds of things (the patients moving their hands and feet) happen, at least we have an answer to give to those who are accompanying them regarding that yes there is still hope

But then when I saw that his feet are moving in the ICU I became calmer and hopeful that he is going to be better

Other patients waking up

I saw my father wake up just once, they had disconnect his breathing devices, I became so happy as though the world has been given to me

We came to the ICU we saw that his hands and feet were moving, we became very happy

My mother and my family are having a hard time since my father has been admitted to the ICU

There is no one to help my family

My poor father doesn’t even have insurance

My father had nothing to eat if he didn’t go to work for one day

My father has a family of four or five

He doesn’t have a source of income

No one helps him, please don’t charge him with any expenses if possible

They money they are spending now is from the time that my father worked

We are spending our savings

Yesterday I had the worst experience of my life, when they say you must transfer one million and seven hundred and fifty to the account

We provided money for the expenses doing everything that we could

You know, we are very short on money

We didn’t have money for the traction operation

You know we don’t have insurance

You must bring the money to the accounting section firstly for us to operate

I was shocked to my very core when they suddenly said you must transfer five millions to the account

All of our relatives lend us 100/200 thousands to one million

When my father gets better we will work and earn the money and pay them back

We are experiencing difficulty financially

Believe me, I rather die but to be humiliated for borrowing money

I am an adult, but I am being crushed (because of borrowing all this money)

Today, when I came home from the hospital I saw that there was no money left for expanses and food
All of the money was spent on the hospital and transportation expenses.

Whenever my family comes to the hospital, it costs 180 to 190 Rials.

We don’t have any more money left.

All I could think of was god, what would we do next?

My father is going to be hospitalized for a long time, thought money car

The expenses of the ICU patients are so high.

I was crushed (financially).

I don’t have any money to bring.

We are under pressure, we don’t earn much.

Believe me, any more money of my salary is left, I also borrow.

A life which out there.

My nights and days have become one.

None of the members of our family are able to work or live like before.

Since my father has come to the ICU, I haven’t done much work done.

The accommodation room of the hospital was full.

Here we don’t have the facility to shave our faces much less take a bath or wear clean clothes.

When I come to stay the night at the hospital, no blanket and food was given to me.

When I come to stay the night at the hospital.

That very cold night I slept in between the cars outside of the hospitals.

Staying in the hospital.

The hospital had given us a room to sleep in which has nothing.

I slept behind the door of the ICU last night.

He has been here for 13 days and I haven’t had the chance to go home.

I have a child who is at the pre-elementary grade, I haven’t seen him yet.

My younger child calls me and says: mom, are you coming home with my brother or not?

I have forgotten all about everyone, my husband, and my children, all I think about is my son.

I told him to go to the neighbor’s house to help you with your dictation.

When we call to ask how our patient is, sometimes they tell us and sometimes what they say is vague.

They don’t answer you correctly for you to understand whether they are good or no.

When they come and ring the bell, they don’t even answer.

---

**Fourth stage of Colaizzi**

According to the opinion of Colaizzi, the researcher has put the formulized concepts in subjective clusters and classes after repeatedly rereading the initial codes and therefore, the conceptual codes of level 2 were obtained. By combining the initial codes, the codes of the second level, which had more general concepts, have been extracted.

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**Table (2) – codes of level 1 and 2**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>Fear of the ICU environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Fear of devices and facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14-21</td>
<td>The conditioning of fear and being wide-awake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>22-25</td>
<td>Fear of the appearance of patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>26-32</td>
<td>Fear of losing a family member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>33-35</td>
<td>Fear of the patient’s unclear future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>36-37</td>
<td>Fear of diagnostic measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>38-42</td>
<td>Terrifying dreams and nightmares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>43-45</td>
<td>Physical reactions to hospitalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>46-61</td>
<td>Sadness and loss of hope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>62-64</td>
<td>Mental effects of visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>65-67</td>
<td>Becoming hopeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>68-70</td>
<td>Reaction to the moment of hearing about the admission to ICU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>71-79</td>
<td>Reaction to the moment of seeing the patient for the first time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>80-92</td>
<td>Reaction to the moment of hearing the news of the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fifth stage of Colaizzi At this stage, by combining the results, a comprehensive description of the topic was obtained as follows:

Table (3) – codes of level 2, level 3 and main themes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Codes of the level 3</th>
<th>Codes of the level 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fear and stress</td>
<td>Fear of the ICU environment</td>
<td>Fear of the ICU environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fear of devices and facilities</td>
<td>Fear of devices and facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The conditioning of fear and being wide-awake</td>
<td>The conditioning of fear and being wide-awake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fear of the appearance of patient</td>
<td>Fear of the appearance of patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fear of losing a family member</td>
<td>Fear of losing a family member</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fear of the patient’s unclear future</td>
<td>Fear of the patient’s unclear future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fear of diagnostic measures</td>
<td>Fear of diagnostic measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Terrifying dreams and nightmares</td>
<td>Terrifying dreams and nightmares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical reactions</td>
<td>Physical reactions</td>
<td>Physical reactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental problems</td>
<td>Mental effects of visiting</td>
<td>Mental effects of visiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emotional difficulties</td>
<td>Emotional difficulties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Becoming hopeless</td>
<td>Becoming hopeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being shocked</td>
<td>Reaction to the moment of hearing about the admission to ICU</td>
<td>Reaction to the moment of hearing about the admission to ICU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reaction to the moment of seeing the patient for the first time</td>
<td>Reaction to the moment of seeing the patient for the first time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reaction to the moment of hearing the news of the incident</td>
<td>Reaction to the moment of hearing the news of the incident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shock and surprise</td>
<td>Shock and surprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peacefulness</td>
<td>Peacefulness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Happiness</td>
<td>Happiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical reactions</td>
<td>Economic difficulties</td>
<td>Economic difficulties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic difficulties</td>
<td>A life that is out there</td>
<td>A life that is out there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Day and night becoming one</td>
<td>Day and night becoming one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not being able to work and live like before</td>
<td>Not being able to work and live like before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Living in the hospital</td>
<td>Living in the hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disruption of the family</td>
<td>Disruption of the family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bewilderment</td>
<td>Failure to responding phone calls</td>
<td>Failure to responding phone calls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Absence of a person responsible for responding</td>
<td>Absence of a person responsible for responding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confusions at the moment of enterin the hospital</td>
<td>Confusions at the moment of enterin the hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of response in terms of patient’s condition and hiding it</td>
<td>Lack of response in terms of patient’s condition and hiding it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of convincing responses</td>
<td>Lack of convincing responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of unity of what doctors and nurses say</td>
<td>Lack of unity of what doctors and nurses say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In this study, the challenges and experiences of the accompaniment of the family members of patients with brain injuries admitted to ICU have been described and themes of reaction and bewilderment have been extracted. Families are shocked at the first moment of hearing the news of the accident and experience severe physical and emotional reactions and this shock also occurs at two other stages which are hearing about the admission of the patient in the ICU and being shocked due to the multiple traumas of the patient and the injuries of the head and face of the patient when they see their patient for the first time. After hearing the news of the accident, the families of the patient enter the hospital confused and the confusion of the patient’s family in the hospital starts with looking for their patient in the reception, information, outpatient and inpatient emergency and then it continues due to the informational needs and encountering of various questions, inhibition of visiting the patients, lack of response to the questions of the families about the conditions of the patient. Families gather in front of the doors of the ICU after getting information and news about their patient in the hospital or they wait in the hospital all day long during the hospitalization of the patients in the hospitals with the hope of visiting their patient or getting news or information about them and throughout the whole time of hospitalization. If the informational needs of the families are not fulfilled by the medical personnel (doctors and nurses), they are forced to reach out to others such as staff, those who carry the patients, and guards so that they would fulfill their needs. The problems and issues above turn the lives of the families upside down economically since the hospital expanses are high and also the disruption of family due to the hospitalization of one of its members.

**Sixth stage of Colaizzi**

It is the result of the effort of the researcher for formulating a comprehensive description which is indicative of the basic structure of the studied phenomenon that has been expressed in the fifth stage of Colaizzi.
Figure (1) – family's reaction to the admission of the patient to the ICU
This theme is indicative of the reaction of the families after hearing about the accident and hospitalization in the hospital and admission to the ICU.

Figure (2) – theme of bewilderment
As it can be understood from the title of this theme, it is indicative of the bewilderment and uncertainty of the families since they enter the hospital and look for their patient in various sections and then not knowing about the diagnosis of the disease, prognosis, unclearness of the duration of hospitalization, not knowing the doctor and nurse of their patients and it is also indicative of the informational needs and other needs of the families (all of the subclasses of this theme have been provided in table (3-4)).
Figure (3) – the lives of the families of the patients turning upside down economically and in terms of family conditions

Figure (4) - the living challenges and experiences of the family members of the admission of one of the members to the ICU due to brain injuries

**Seventh stage of Colaizzi**

At this stage, the researcher turns to the participants of the interview and asks them about the findings and asks for their opinions associated with the findings obtained from the research ad whenever there was ambiguity for the participants, the researcher turns to the text of the interviews again and to the process of the extraction of the reviewed findings and the researcher and participants obtained a final consensus and
that is how the ultimate reliability was obtained.

CONCLUSION
In this study, the challenges and experiences of the accompaniment of the family members of the patients with brain injuries admitted to ICU have been described and the following themes have been extracted: reaction to admission to the ICU, their lives turning upside down economically and family conditions, and bewilderment. Families are shocked at the first moment of hearing the news of the accident and experience severe physical and emotional reactions and this shock also occurs at two other stages which are hearing about the admission of the patient in the ICU and being shocked due to the multiple traumas of the patient and the injuries of the head and face of the patient when they see their patient for the first time. After hearing the news of the accident, the families of the patient enter the hospital confused and the confusion of the patient’s family in the hospital starts with looking for their patient in the reception, information, outpatient and inpatient emergency and then it continues due to the informational needs and encountering of various questions, inhibition of visiting the patients, lack of response to the questions of the families about the conditions of the patient. Families gather in front of the doors of the ICU after getting information and news about their patient in the hospital or they wait in the hospital all day long during the hospitalization of the patients in the hospitals with the hope of visiting their patient or getting news or information about them and throughout the whole time of hospitalization. If the informational needs of the families are not fulfilled by the medical personnel (doctors and nurses), they are forced to reach out to others such as staff, those who carry the patients, and guards so that they would fulfill their needs. The problems and issues above turn the lives of the families upside down economically since the hospital expanses are high and also the disruption of family due to the hospitalization of one of its members.

REFERENCES

