

Review of: "Associations between ICU-days and patient experiences and perceptions of clinical research in intensive care units: a mediation analysis"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Congratulations for the good work: it is very interesting and stimulating to analyze the perception of the patient who is not just a "receiver" of intensive care therapies and procedures, but a human being in his entirety.

Here are some food for thought:

- The number of days in ICU is only one of the factors considered, and not even the most relevant, given that socioeconomic factors and informed participation are highlighted in several parts of the article. Would it be appropriate to include this concept in the title too?
- It is not explained whether the patients are admitted for post-operative monitoring or due to the need for intensive treatment; this cannot be seen from the results because by not dividing the groups of subjects to whom the questionnaire was submitted into patients/relatives/healthcare workers,
- It is not clear how the days in the ICU are grouped
- It is not specified whether the ICUs are specialist or multipurpose or what type of pathologies the patients have
- The questionnaire is submitted to patients, relatives and healthcare professionals in separate surveys, in which the questions are the same, but asked with modified formulas, to make each group reflect specifically on the chosen item. It would be nice to read the questions too and not just the items
- The results should be differentiated in the subgroups of people to whom the questionnaire is subjected, to understand if the item is influenced by the direct experience of hospitalization in the ICU, or by caring for a relative or a patient
- I would like to know when the questionnaire was completed by the patients, i.e. during hospitalization or upon leaving the ICU, or during follow-up visits following hospital discharge.