

# Experiences of loved ones' end of life care in acute hospital settings: a narrative analysis

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# Background

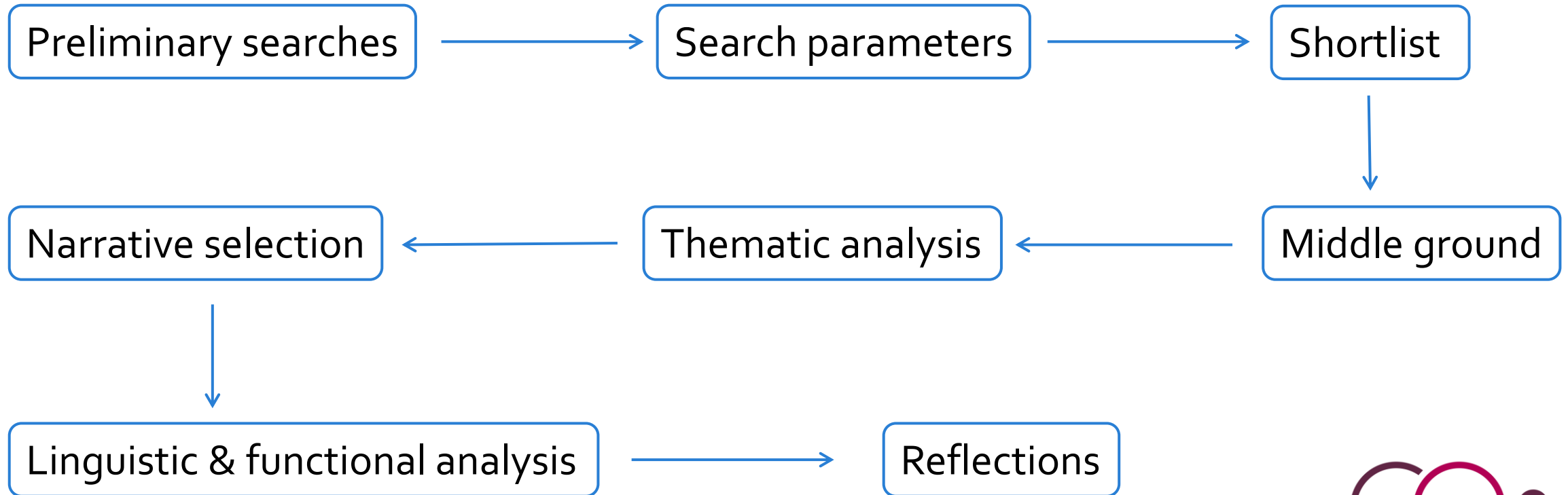
*Life's transience is inherent to humanity, and its end is often observed in hospitals; distanced from day-to-day existence, familiar to medical professionals and poignant for dying patients and their families.*

- At the end of life, only the experiences of others present can be recounted

**Aim: to examine aspects of end-of-life care in acute settings influencing loved ones' experiences**

- Narratives: depictions of lived experience
- The medical gaze & patient experience

# Methods



# Selected narratives

## 1. Care of a dying relative

*~ We knew she was dying but no one would commit~*

## 2. A Good Death?

*~ ...generosity of kindness, care and compassion... ~*

## 3. Variable care depending on the ward and day of the week

*~ ...the convenience of the ward consultants, not the wellbeing of the patient... ~*

# Findings

## 1. Roles

- Asserting voice as narrator while situating dying loved one at plot's centre
- Strong sense of personal connection
- Presence – duty, value & advocacy

## 3. Medical perspectives of death

- Trust in medical perspective
- Professional vulnerability
- Acknowledgement of roles

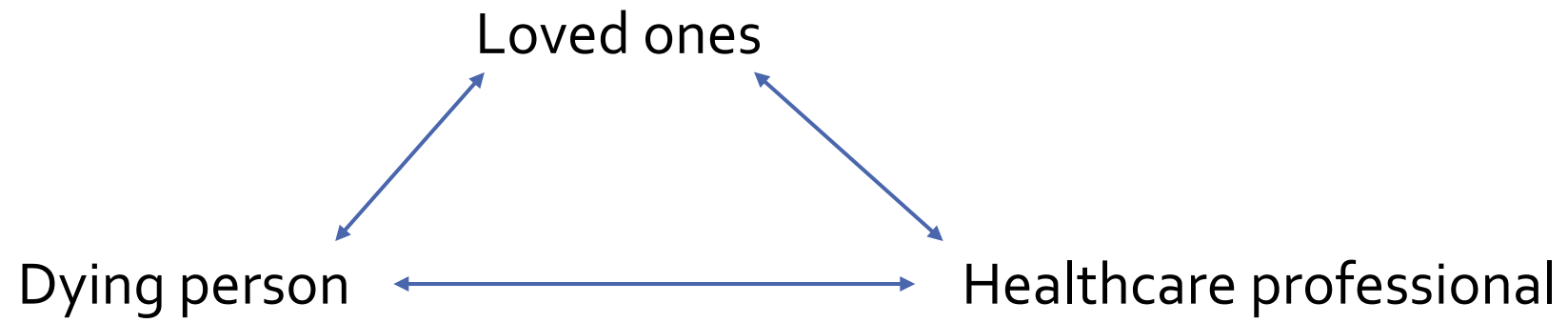
## 2. Vulnerability

- Passive & distanced language
- Hospital spaces
- Functions of narratives – meaning-making, reclaiming experience

## 4. Influences of experience

- Presence & trust in clinicians' attentiveness
- Kindness, compassion, honesty
- Professional courage & vulnerability

# Triad of care



# Reflections

- As a 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student
  - Interpretation
  - Constraints
  - Medical gaze
  - Humanity
- As a doctor
  - Constraints
  - Medical gaze & humanity



# Future directions

## Medical education

- Narratives in medical education
- Empathy & self-awareness
- Unique shared understandings & new perspectives

## Research:

- Effects of Covid
- Different spaces



# Thank you for listening

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Any questions?

# References

## Narratives

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## Presentation

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