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## PATIENTS' SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF PSYCHIATRIC ADMISSION

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**Objective:** Assessment of patients' subjective experiences is an important approach of qualitative research in mental health care. It also strengthens the patient-centred view on mentally ill people. Here we focus on the admission to a psychiatric hospital.

**Methods:** Subjective experiences of psychiatric admissions were recorded with a semi-structured interview in 72 fairly representative in-patients. Patients' satisfaction with treatment was recorded with the ZUF-8 questionnaire. Additionally, 52 in-patients on nine wards were interviewed in focus groups.

**Results:** From the patients' point of view, the most important aspects of the admission were staff, ward atmosphere and fellow patients. Violence and coercion played only a minor role. In the face-to-face interviews, assessments were generally positive. The results of the patient-satisfaction-questionnaire (ZUF-8) showed a tendency to positive ratings as well. In focus groups, also negative experiences and criticism were reported.

**Conclusions:** Patient's subjective experiences of an admission to a psychiatric hospital could be well assessed. Future surveys should be conducted anonymously to minimize social desirability bias. Focus groups yield an important extension of individual interviews.