

Oral presentation

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## Patients' view of seclusion – preliminary report

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### Background

Seclusion, putting a patient involuntarily alone in a locked unfurnished room from which she/he cannot freely exit, is a prevailing coercive measure in modern psychiatric practice. In recent years, clinical, ethical, and legal debate has increased awareness of its controversial nature. However, studies focused on the views of the secluded patients themselves are sparse. Objective: To describe a pilot phase of an extensive research project concerning the seclusion experience of 100 forensic and civil psychiatric patients.

### Methods

Secluded patients were interviewed using a semi-structured interview developed for the purpose of this research project.

### Results

Both negative and positive aspects were associated with seclusion. Interaction between the secluded patient and the staff was perceived as insufficient.

### Conclusion

Clinical implications are discussed.