



CHALLENGING REHABILITATION ENVIRONMENT: RESULTS OF A CONCEPT MAPPING STUDY

Introduction

A challenging rehabilitation environment involves the comprehensive organisation of care, support and environment on a rehabilitation ward.¹

The aim of this study is to combine the perspectives of professionals, rehabilitants and informal caregivers with the evidence found in literature and brainstorms into an evidence-based conceptualisation of this concept.

Statements

70 statements were clustered and prioritized on a 1-5 scale. The top 5 of the prioritisation is shown here.

Statement	Mean rating	Cluster
The team stimulates the self-reliance and independence of the rehabilitant	4,45	3
The team works interdisciplinary and is jointly responsible for achieving goals	4,28	3
Nurses have a therapeutic role and practice tasks during daily care	4,19	3
Employees are flexible, interested, empathetic, active, stimulating and motivating	4,18	3
Rehabilitant and informal caregiver are prepared that rehabilitation doesn't end after discharge	4,02	2

Method

Concept mapping is a research method which combines brainstorming techniques with advanced statistical analysis in order to generate conceptual frameworks.²



Along the protocol we performed the following steps:

- Concept mapping between November 2021 and June 2022.
- Characteristics extracted out of literature and previous focus groups
- Participants prioritized and clustered these characteristics
- Multi-dimensional scaling procedure and hierarchical cluster analysis, resulted in a cluster solution, which was interpreted by the research commission

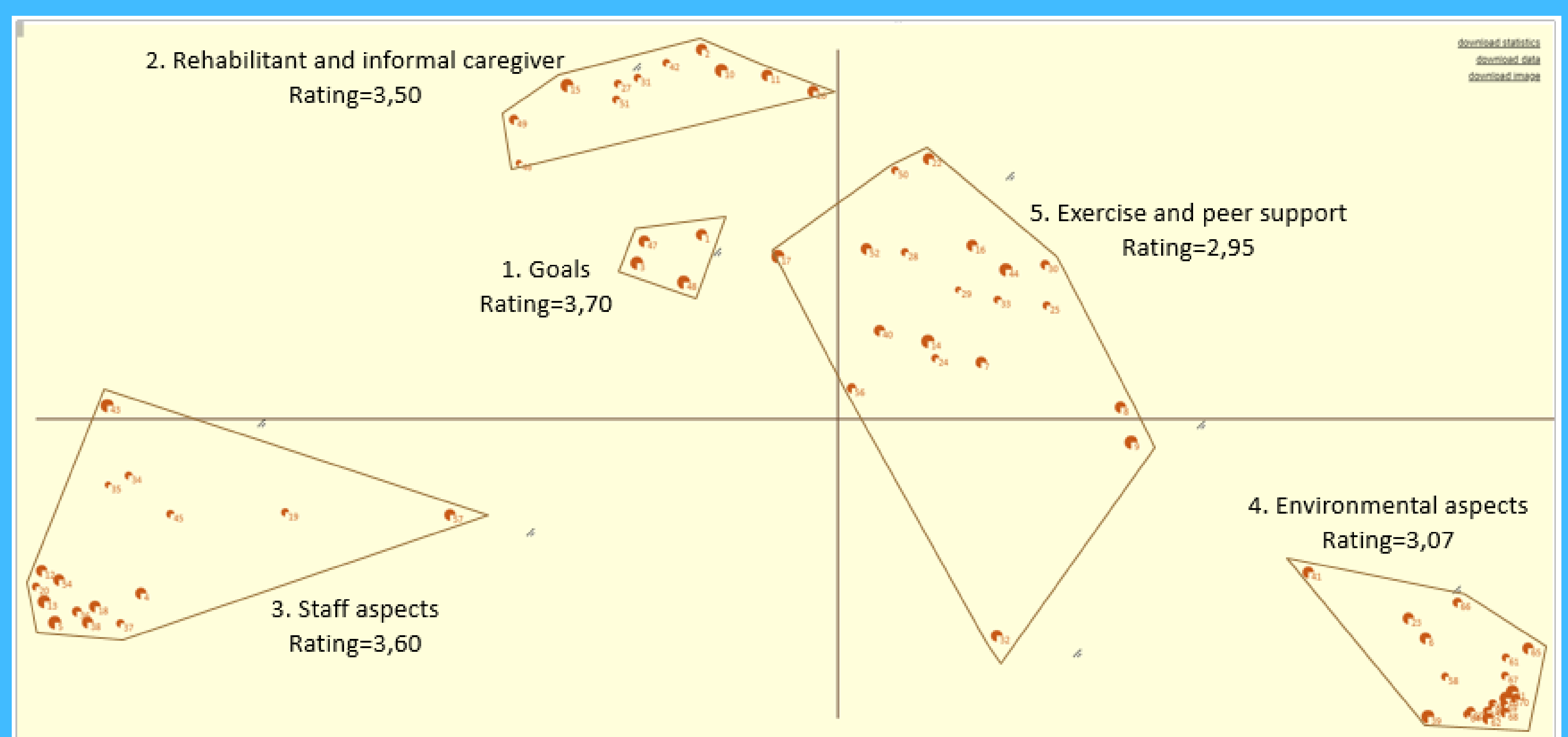
Participants

Subgroup	Age	Gender	Diagnoses
(Para)medics (N = 20)	26-63 (median 41)	Female 14 Male 6	Not applicable
Nursing staff (N = 11)	24-58 (median 31)	Female 11	Not applicable
Rehabilitants (N = 13)	67-89 (median 80)	Female 12 Male 1	Trauma 7 Stroke 3 Post COVID 2 Urosepsis 1
Informal caregiver (N = 2)	41-49	Female 2	Trauma 1 Stroke 1

Results

After statistical analysis and an in-depth discussion, 5 clusters originated.

- Goals (4 statements)
- Rehabilitant and informal caregiver (11 statements)
- Staff aspects (16 statements)
- Environmental aspects (20 statements)
- Exercise and peer support (19 statements)



Discussion and conclusion

The concept mapping procedure led to a 5-cluster solution to conceptualize a challenging rehabilitation environment. The result of this study is an evidence based conceptualization by four perspectives (nursing staff, (para)medics, rehabilitants and informal caregivers). It can be used for developing a self-evaluation tool for a challenging rehabilitation environment. Further research into this concept and its effectivity is necessary.

References

1. Tijssen LM, Derksen EW, Achterberg WP, Buijck BI. Challenging rehabilitation environment for older patients. Clin Interv Aging 2019;14:1451-1460.
2. Trochim W, Kane M. Concept mapping: an introduction to structured conceptualization in health care. Int J Qual Health Care. 2005;17(3):187-91.

