Patient safety in relation to the design of the patient rooms in Intensive Care Units - Staff’s lived experiences of their working environment in high technological settings

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Introduction
Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is the place of care for the most critically ill patients. Patient rooms in ICUs serve as a place of care, treatment, recovery, visiting as well as a place of work for the staff. According to European Society of intensive Care Medicine, providing high quality and safe care requires an integration of human, technological and spatial recourses. These rooms are characterized by a high prevalence of stressors such as high levels of sound, strong lighting and are technologically dense environments. Previous research highlights the impact of the design and interiors for experiences of wellbeing and recovery process from the patients’ and next of kin’s perspective. However, in order to improve and develop intensive care there is a need for studying the meaning of the patient room as the staff’s working environment and for patient safety.

Material and Methods
Data was collected during 2012 through a combination of qualitative research interviews and photographs, conceptualized as photovoice methodology (Wang & Burris 1997) at three different ICUs in Western Sweden. The participants were invited to photograph various aspects of the patient room of significance for their work. Photographs were used as an aid for reflection during the interviews. Data was analyzed using a phenomenological approach. In total 15 people participated.

Results
The preliminary results show that the design and interiors of the patient room are essential for the staff to manage and provide a safe and high quality care. The design and interiors are also of importance for work satisfaction. Moreover, the design of the room has a great influence on working conditions.

The presentation will be held orally and findings from the analysis i.e., themes, subthemes and some of the photographs will be presented as well as a short discussion about the method.

Conclusions
The design and interiors of ICU have an impact on work satisfaction and on patient safety.