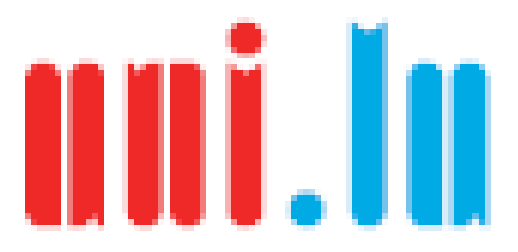# Generation of Patients-as-Partner Items Through Qualitative Data Analysis : Initial Item Reduction

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Background

Since the beginning of modern medicine, the patient - healthcare professional interaction (HP) has been mostly paternalistic, with the HP viewed as the ultimate authority and expert in health related matters.

Today, patients are more informed about their disease, and increasingly seeking interactive discussions with their HPs. The active patient is progressively being defined as a partner in healthcare

As such, health psychology aspires to find ways of evaluating the Patient as a Partner. Currently, no scale exists that measures this concept.

Our study aims to generate *patient-as-partner* related scale items consisting of different domains / dimensions

Conclusion

Our results will contribute to

• The creation of a quantitative analysis tool that can be used to measure the understanding and level of patient-as-partner in different healthcare contexts

• Highlighting aspects of *patient-as-partner* concept common to the greater region

• Inform future projects aimed at implementing a partnership approach to healthcare.

Method

Data Collection

Six semi-structured focus groups with 24 (eight men, 16 women) chronic disease (cancer, stroke, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease & rare disease) patients.
22 Interviews with healthcare professionals (doctors & nurses - general practitioners, oncologists, cardiologists, pulmonologist, nephrologist, endocrinologists)

Data Analysis

An inductive (data abstraction > from specific to general), and deductive (guided by a predefined protocol) thematic qualitative content analysis was conducted, resulting in the creation of a flexible analysis framework.

• Extracted verbatim were grouped together into categories. The essence of each category was captured by an item formulated to capture the overall patient-as-partner concept.
• Categories were verified through consensus by a multidisciplinary team of experts who further grouped items together to form dimensions.
• All levels of categorizations were determined by an overarching protocol consisting of 4 dimensions (Definition, fundamentals, obstacles & solutions to patient partnership)

Initial Item Reduction
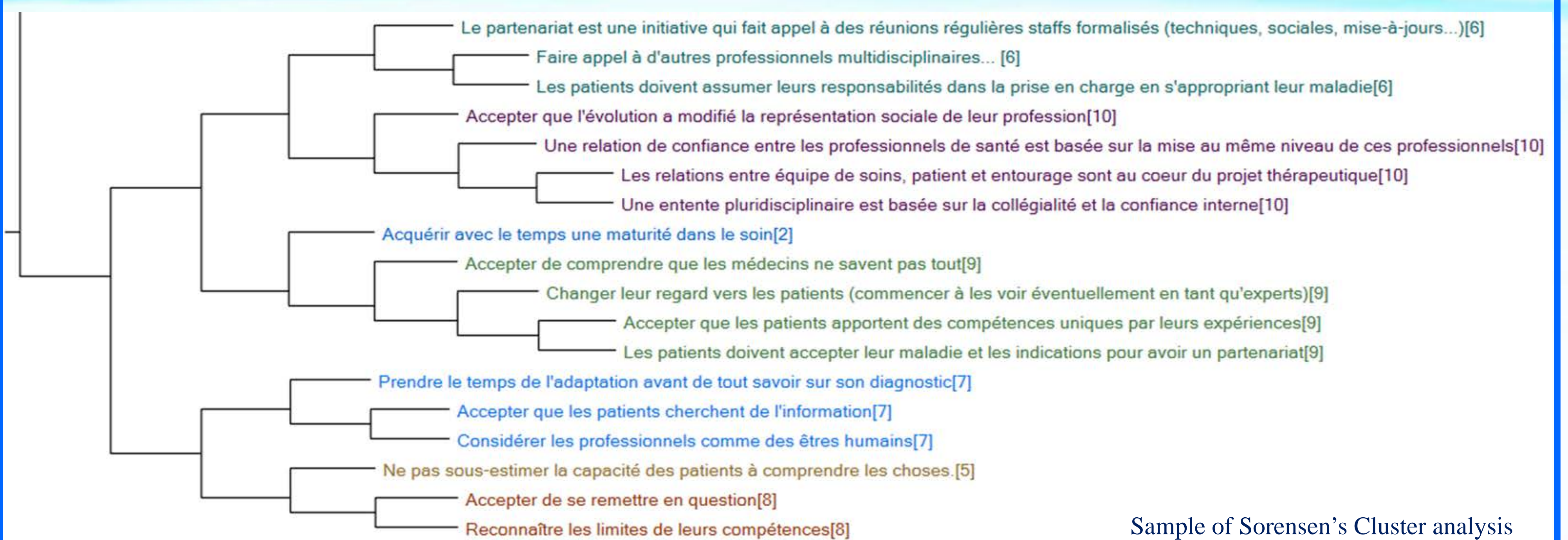
Sample of Sorensen's Cluster analysis

Sorensen's coefficient was performed with (Nvivo 12) to generate a cluster analysis that groups items together based on word similarity. The analysis measures the coefficients (from 0 *no similar words* – 1 *all similar words*) by comparing items & their respective verbatim. Similar items were reviewed and merged where applicable

Results
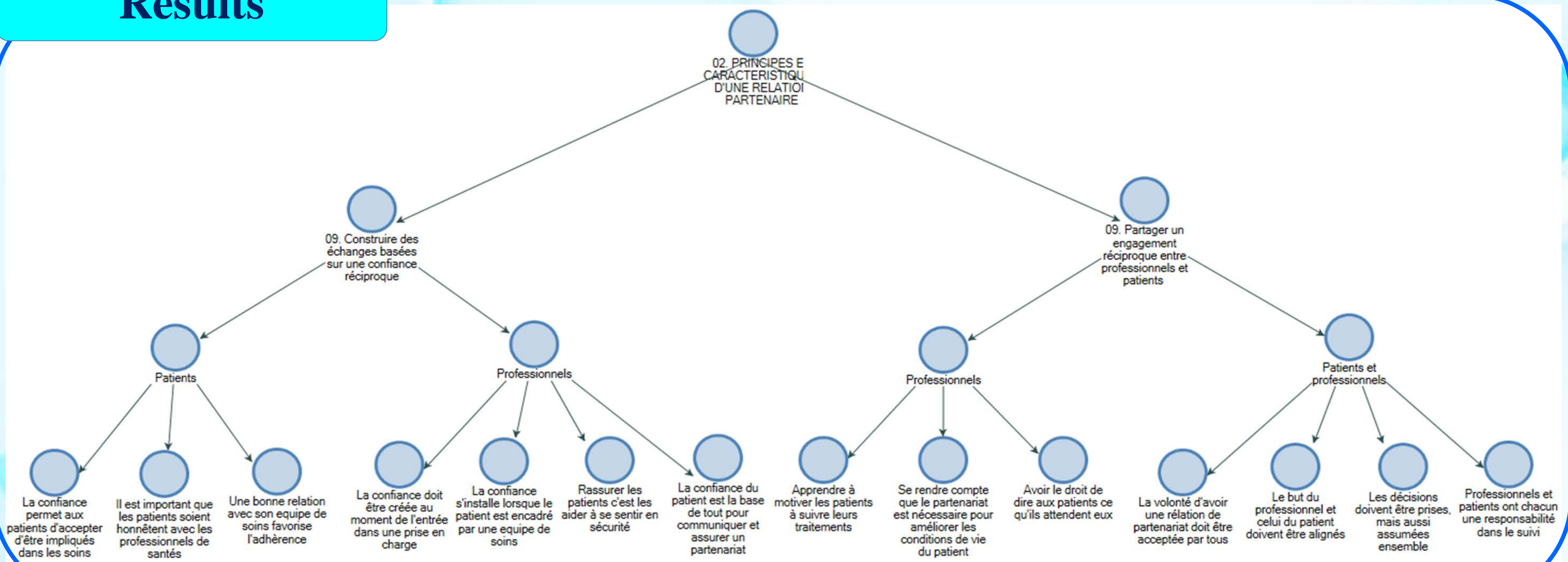
Sample illustration of generated items within their respective dimensions

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