

The RQDA software in qualitative data analysis: a tool for research on Chronic Pelvic Pain

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1 Abstract / Background

Qualitative Data Analysis Software (CAQDAS) has been progressively used by qualitative researchers to optimize analyzes derived from qualitative research. Among the characteristics that contributed to its dissemination, we highlight the large volume data searches, functionalities that reduce the time of coding and analysis, the possibility to document the steps of the analysis, transparency to the process, besides the resources for presentation and visualization of the results obtained (Costa, Faria, & Reis, 2016).

1 Objectives

Given the still scarce literature describing the use of CAQDAS software, in particular the RQDA software, our goal is to report the experience of using this software to support the analyze of qualitative datas, as well as to describe its functionalities.

2 Methodology

This research had a qualitative design with a thematic analytical approach (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Data was gathered from sixty-six women diagnosed with Chronic Pelvic Pain, using semi-structured individuals interviews, through a central guiding question (i.e.: How do you deal with pain?). The interviews were audio recorded and transcribed in full for later analysis with the support of the software "RQDA" (Huang, 2016).

3 Main Outcomes

Data was organized in two key themes related to how women dealt with the experience of pain: 1. Individual mechanisms focused on pain acceptance; 2. Individual mechanisms focused on coping with pain.



4 Stronger Points

1. Free license; 2. Easy-to-use tool; 3. Allows statistical analysis on coding; 4. RQDA and R form an integrated platform for quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

Main Limitation: The software is not web based.

References

Costa, A. P., Faria, B. M., & Reis L. P. (2016). Investigação Qualitativa Através da Utilização de Software: Workflows Metodológicos. *RISTI*, 19.

Huang, R. (2016). RQDA: R-based Qualitative Data Analysis. R package version 0.2-8. <http://rqda.rforge.r-project.org/>.

