



Focus Group Interview Experience of A University Clinician Research Team

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INTRODUCTION

- Focus Group Interviews (FGIs):
 - Semi-structured discussions with small groups of people to better understand how they feel about an idea, product, issue or service¹.
 - Widely implemented in health research in recent years as part of qualitative research study data collection^{2, 3}.
 - Allow researchers to gather in-depth information beyond what surveys can offer^{4,5}.
 - Considering the advantages of FGIs, they were included as part of the study design of a double-blind clinical trial at Roseman University College of Dental Medicine.
- Aim of this study:** to share detailed information and describe the educational experience that was gained by a new clinical researchers during the process

METHODS

- Design:** Interview groups were based on the 3 groups of the main study. Two series of FGIs; 6 interviews in total of 60-90 minutes duration each with 6-8 participants. The moderator was the principal investigator (PI). The process is described schematically in Figure 1.
- Participants:** all consented prior to participation, the selection was randomized based on their individual availability.
- Setting:** academic conference room, relaxed atmosphere, moderator and study team members present
- Data collection:** all FGIs audio recorded, participants assigned with numeric IDs to protect their identity, study team members were also taking notes, main script and follow up questions were asked by the moderator
- Data processing and analysis:** audio recordings were fully transcribed and participant responses were summarized and grouped into thematic categories. The main trends within each group were identified and interpreted.

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METHODS

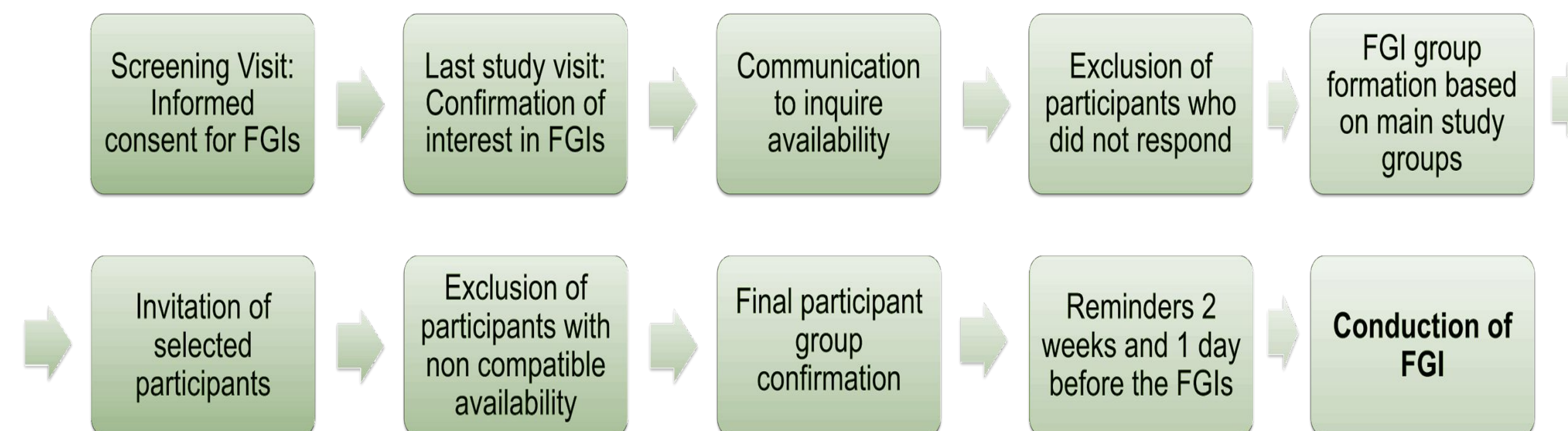


Fig.1. Interview process diagram, describing the steps that were followed for the organization of the FGIs.

RESULTS

- All the study team members gained new knowledge and experience in the design, organization, interviewing, qualitative data processing, analysis and interpretation in FGIs.
- The results from the analysis of the FGI generated data were presented in scientific meetings and conferences; additional experience and skills developed in abstract writing, submission and research data presentation
- FGI data were also used for the synthesis of scientific papers; experience and skills gained in scientific writing, paper submission and revision processes

CONCLUSIONS

- The inclusion of FGIs as part of a clinical trial was a valuable and educational experience for all study members.
- Acquiring real-life experience in the conduct of quality clinical trials from a highly experienced PI/mentor can contribute to evidence-based clinical practice, positively impacting healthcare delivery.

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