

# Cross-Validating Thematic Networks: An Explanatory Sequential Mixed Methods Study with Chronically Ill Students

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Mixed methods research entails integrated analysis combining data and techniques, enhancing validity and depth by leveraging strengths of each method.

To understand the experiences and meaning that adolescents and young adults with chronic illnesses assign to their student life, a multicentre study using a sequential explanatory mixed methods design (quantitative → qualitative) and a phenomenological approach was conducted with a purposive sample of 32 chronically ill students aged 14–24. The WHOQOL-Bref questionnaire was administered, followed by ten focus groups. The study involved multi-method (selective and indirect observational methodology), and analysis integrated both data sets.

Five recurrent themes emerged from the conversation analysis and guided the construction of corresponding networks. These networks were corroborated through statistical analysis, which revealed significant relationships within several network connections.

Data should be explored using diverse techniques to cross-validate findings and interpretation. Methodological integration—particularly across qualitative and quantitative approaches in network analysis—serves as a quality criterion.

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