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In This Issue:

The Codman Award Paper:
Family concerns and responses following
a severe traumatic brain injury:
A grounded theory study14



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Abstract from Volume 24/#2

Codman Award paper: Family concerns and responses following a severe traumatic brain injury: a grounded theory study

By Diane Duff

The focus of this paper is to present an inductively derived substantive theory, "Negotiating Uncertainty". The theory details the most salient concerns of families who had a close relative who had suffered a severe TBI and how they dealt with the experience during the uncertain trajectory of illness that followed coma. This study was conducted in two acute care neurosurgical units in Level 1 trauma facilities in Toronto, Canada, using the grounded theory research method. There were a total of 36 participants in the study: 11 individuals who were injured and 25 close family members. Supporting data is provided to permit the reader to hear the issues of family members first-hand and to evaluate the recommendations for practice, education, and research.