“The Trajectory of Adult Post-craniotomy Brain Tumor Pain over the Postoperative Period”

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**Abstract:**

**Subject Population**
Brain tumors account for 85-90% of all central nervous system tumors in the United States. Most patients undergo craniotomy; 93% of patients report subsequent pain. Physiological mechanisms underlying pain and the relationships among pain intensity and outcomes have been investigated, but the social context in which pain is managed has rarely been studied.

**Research Design**
This grounded theory study will develop an explanatory framework describing the unfolding of pain-related experiences in post-craniotomy brain tumor patients during the post-operative period. **Specific aims** are to describe: (1) how brain tumor patients experience the unfolding of post-craniotomy pain during the post-operative period; (2) how brain tumor patients respond to and manage their post-craniotomy pain during the post-operative period; and (3) salient pain management interactions between post-craniotomy brain tumor patients and their healthcare providers as perceived by the patients.

**Instrument**
This is a grounded theory study using semi-structured interviews. No instruments will be used.

**Procedure**
Thirty adults (21 and older) with primary brain tumor treated by craniotomy four days prior will be asked to describe their pain experiences. Narrative analysis will use grounded theory techniques. The resulting explanatory framework will closely fit the data and be useful to healthcare workers.