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Reflectivity on doctor's vulnerability

CMGF – Paris 2025

English Workshop

Different perspectives on quaternary prevention

Jeudi 27 mars 1430-16 h salle 243

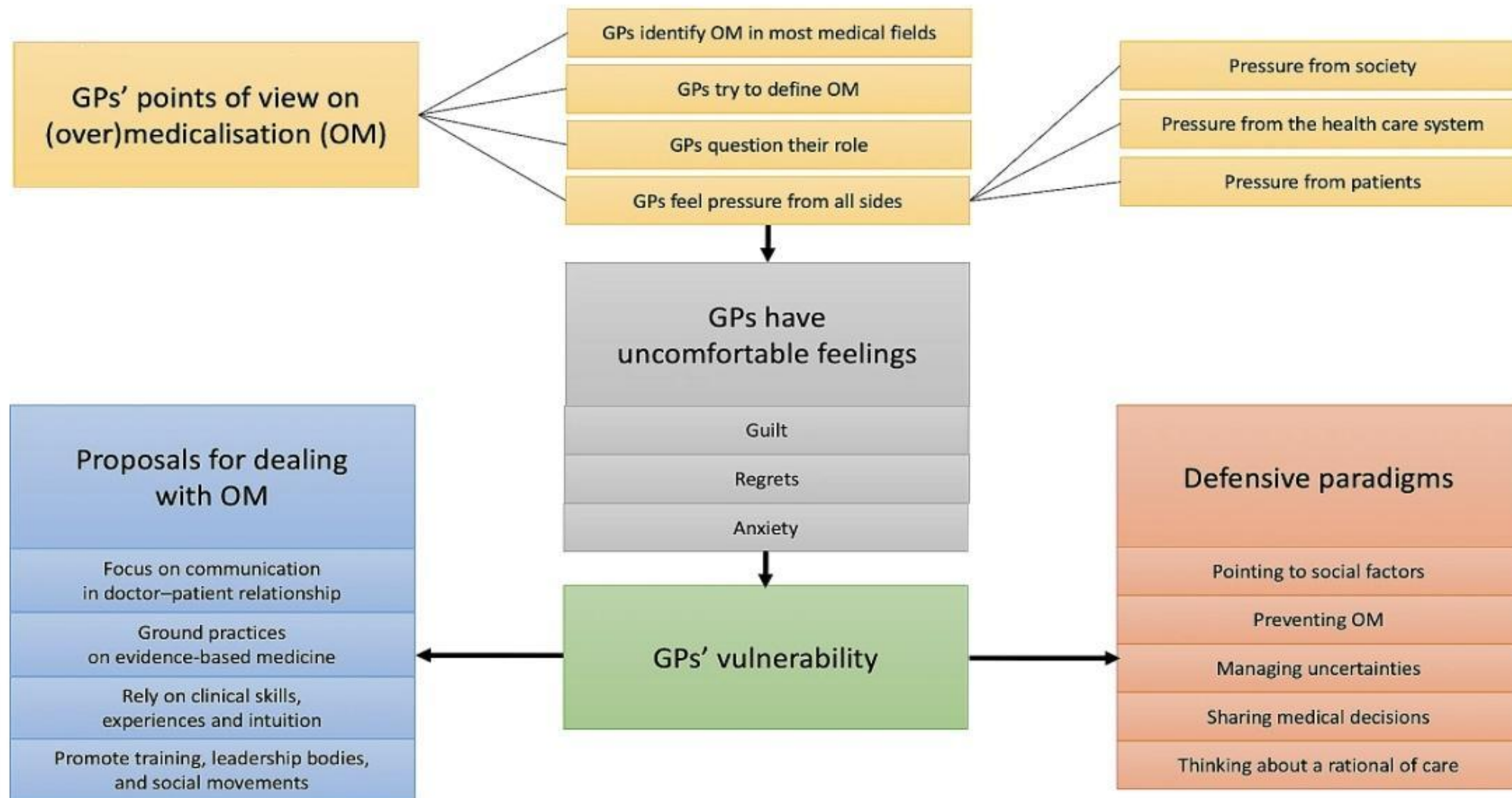
Presentation: Sophia Chatelard & Daniel Widmer

Co-authors: Michaël Cordey, Patrick Ouvrard and Lilly Herzig



Methodology

- Qualitative research
- How do GPs describe what matters to them in terms of (over)-medicalisation: concerns, problems, troubles, difficulties, feelings ?
- 7 FG with 38 GPs – convenience sampling during CME groups.
- Coding MAXQDA 12.
- Analysis and discussion with an anthropologist



Conceptual map of our findings



Discussion

- Return to Jamouille's first vision on quaternary prevention: symptoms of unknown origin (disease/illness).
- Shared vulnerability.
- Defense mechanisms or the only lifeline: rationality – rational discussion.
- Necessity of another model.
- Supervision and Balint for quaternary prevention.



Balint

- “There are many cases in which—though the signs of a **confusion of tongues** between the patient and his doctor are painfully present—there is apparently no open controversy.
 - Some of these cases demonstrate the working of two other, often interlinked, factors.
 - One is the patient’s increasing **anxiety and despair**, resulting in more and more fervently clamouring **demands for help**.
 - Often the doctor’s response is **guilt** feelings and **despair** that his most conscientious, most carefully devised examinations do not seem to throw real light on the patient’s “illness”, that his most erudite, most modern, most circumspect therapy does not bring real relief.”
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- (Balint M. The Doctor, His Patient and the Illness. New York: International Universities; 2005. [1957].)



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Discussion

- Return to Jamouille's first vision on quaternary prevention: symptoms of unknown origin.
- Shared vulnerability.
- Defense mechanisms or the only lifeline: rationality – rational discussion.
- Necessity of another model (hermeneutics).

Widmer, Daniel. « Philosophical roots of Quaternary Prevention ». *Revista Brasileira de Medicina de Família e Comunidade* 10, n° 35 (24 juin 2015): 1-8. [https://doi.org/10.5712/rbmfc10\(35\)1128](https://doi.org/10.5712/rbmfc10(35)1128).

- Supervision and Balint for quaternary prevention.



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