

**Table 4 Selected quotes extracted from the qualitative data analysis of interviews with patients**

Class & subclass	Code	Quote: (patient ID no.-sex-age)
<b>Psychological consequences</b>		
Fear of death and infection of other family members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe preoccupation about death.</li> <li>Severe preoccupation about infection/death of other family members.</li> </ul>	<p>“When we first tested positive, I thought we were all going to die because of what I had seen on the media. I was terrified.” (P76-F-24)</p> <p>“We felt mortified when a patient in the ward passed away in front of us. I remember it all so vividly.” (P8-M-20)</p> <p>“A boy admitted with me mentioned that USA reported a thousand deaths in a day. I felt like my heart sank. I have a son admitted in PKLI’s ICU. I fear what will happen to him.” (P1-F-53)</p>
Depression/ anxiety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequent crying and low mood, worries</li> <li>Feeling lonely, anxious and unhappy</li> </ul>	<p>“I have 3 daughters and a wife back at home in another city. I am the only bread winner and have been away from them for 1.5 months now. I am so stressed about how they are managing expenses back at home. Do they have enough to feed themselves? I need to go home.” (P73-M-60) He wept while narrating his dilemma. A week later, he tried to commit suicide.</p> <p>“I worry that I will die here alone. I feel so lonely and alone.” (P17-F-68) 68-year-old female patient started crying during the interview while talking about missing her grandchildren.</p>
Sleep problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experiencing frequent insomnia from the severity of anxiety.</li> <li>Lack of peace, excessive noise</li> </ul>	<p>“It is very hard to sleep here as I feel anxious. I try to catch up on my sleep in the evening but then spend sleepless nights.” (P30-F-36)</p> <p>“It’s been 6 days since my admission and my sleep quality is very poor. There is so much noise and disturbance at night that I cannot fall asleep. The day is no different.” (P69-M-36)</p>
Feelings of anger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeling anger about people being non-compliance with quarantine advice leading to increasing risk of spreading infection</li> </ul>	<p>One mother expressed anger about risk being posed to her kids at home.</p> <p>“My mother in law also tested positive but she is still at home and not isolating. There are small kids at my place, I am so worried. Called 1166 multiple times to bring her to the hospital too but no one is paying any heed to my requests.” (P63-F-36)</p>
<b>Source of anxiety and distress</b>		
Inadequate communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of communication from hospital administration</li> <li>Poor information from treating staff especially related to test results</li> </ul>	<p>“I have been using all my efforts to know how my tests have turned out, are they negative for corona now or not? I was not informed even after asking.” (P10-M-25)</p> <p>“First of all, they don’t take our samples despite being here for several days and when they do, we are not informed of the reports. We inquire about them repeatedly but there is no reply from the administration and doctors. This behaviour is not helping our anxiety.” (P54-M-18)</p>
Poor ward facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor hygiene</li> <li>Inadequate ventilation of rooms</li> <li>Poor internet facilities</li> <li>Poor food quality</li> </ul>	<p>“There are heaps of garbage and filth here. The bed sheets are stained and the whole situation is deplorable. My youngest son is with me. How do they expect us to stay in such conditions?” (P39-F-38)</p> <p>“I felt trapped in the room, there was no ventilation which makes me feel suffocated. I knocked at the door but they had bolted it from the outside.” (P19-F-30)</p> <p>“The ward I am staying in does not have WIFI. I wish there was a better signal so I could communicate with my family, right now the signal breaks and the calls end abruptly. I am not allowed to go out of the ward for better reception.” (P5-F-25)</p> <p>“I wish the hospital served us hygienic and fresh food as I read that the viral infection can be fought off with a good diet.” (P9-M-56)</p>
Distress and concern about family members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeling forgotten and rejected by family</li> <li>Preoccupation with health of family members at home and in hospital</li> <li>Not disclosing hospitalization due to possible family distress</li> </ul>	<p>“I am missing my 3 children who are at my mother’s home. I talk to them over video calls but they appear indifferent; that hurts me. My wish is to return home as soon as possible so I’ll be able to cook for them myself.” (P34-F-38).</p> <p>“I have 2 kids at home, they call me every day and cry because I am not with them. I cannot sleep at night worrying about my kids, desperately waiting for the results.” (P44-F-32).</p> <p>“I am concerned about how my husband’s result comes out; he was tested after me and is also in a quarantine facility. He is diabetic and needs blood sugar monitoring.” (P16-F-55)</p> <p>One patient reported not telling his mother and children living in another city about his illness and hospitalization because he did not want them to worry. He stated: “Media reports that that those who are isolated end up in the grave and there is no one to say their funeral prayers. I don’t want them to suffer by knowing about me being isolated.” (P-109-M-42)</p>

**Table 4 Selected quotes extracted from the qualitative data analysis of interviews with patients** (concluded)

Class & subclass	Code	Quote: (patient ID no.-sex-age)
Financial concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worries about hospital expenses</li> <li>• Disruption in work life</li> </ul>	“We belong to a middle-class family, my 5-year-old son asked me yesterday ‘Is the food served here free? Will they charge us for medication?’ I had tears in my eyes. I told him Allah will help us get out and back to our own home.” (P31-F-32)
Improper behaviour of fellow patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fellow patients making videos of other patients/staff</li> <li>• Lack of respect to dead body</li> <li>• Breach of confidentiality</li> </ul>	One female patient developed stress-related symptoms after witnessing the abnormal behaviours of another COVID-19 patient who made a video of the body of a patient who died in their unit and later posted it on social media. “I felt disgusted by his behaviour.” (P5-F-25)
Social stigma and rejection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humiliating behaviour/ attitude of others</li> <li>• Lack of social relations during the quarantine period</li> </ul>	“They are treating us like we have AIDS.” (P74-M-33) “We are being kept isolated against our will as prisoners.” (P109-M-42)

PKLI = Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute.  
ICU = intensive care unit.