Beyond one’s depth
The experience of postoperative complications following radical cystectomy (ongoing)
Lydum, L.1 Konradsen, H.1 Thomasen, T.2
1 Department of Urology, University Hospital Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark. 2 Gentofte Hospital, Department of Research, Denmark.

Background
In Denmark, the incidence of neoplasia of the urinary bladder was 1.878 in 2013 (1). Radical Cystectomy (RC) is the preferred treatment option for patients with localized advanced bladder cancer (2). RC is a challenging and complicated surgical procedure associated with a high incidence of postoperative complications (3). However, knowledge of how the patients experience a complicated postoperative course is limited.

The purpose
To explore the lived experiences of suffering and recovering from postoperative complications in the early period following RC.

Materials and method
A descriptive phenomenological approach, as described within the framework of Reflective Lifeworld Research (4).

Data was collected using semi-structured qualitative interviews. Data analysis using the four step analysis process as described by Dahlberg et al. (4). See figure 1.

Five male participants were included in the study according to inclusion and exclusion criteria. All participant gave their informed consent (see tables below).

Conclusions
• The findings can potentially inform development of evidence based goal-directed interventions aimed at securing the quality of care for patients experiencing postoperative complications.
• We should consider supportive approaches to help patients who develop postoperative complications regain control and feel at home in their body again.
• We need to focus on relatives of patients with postoperative complications as they appear vulnerable and may have unmet needs. Further studies exploring the experience of being a close relative during the treatment trajectory of complicated RC are warranted.

References

Conflicts of interests
The study is supported by a 15.000 kr. (2.015 €) bursary from Medac Scandinavia and the Danish association of urology nurses (SUIS).