The question of when and how parabolically induced representations decompose is central in the representation theory of \( p \)-adic groups. I will outline how the method of types and covers can be used to study this question. The method is purely local and can yield detailed information in good circumstances. In particular, I will discuss a class of examples in the case of quaternionic hermitian groups where the method gives explicit concrete results. (Received September 16, 2013)