

**Effects of Increased Frequency of Oral Care in Mechanically Ventilated Patients:
Quality Improvement**

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Quality Improvement is essential to the safety of health care systems. It is a system that monitors data continuously to assess patient care outcomes. Improvement methods test and make necessary changes to improve the health care system's quality (QSEN Institute, 2020). In the study, they use skills such as seeking information to improve the care outcome for ventilated patients. In addition, the study also describes approaches for changing the care process and using quality measures to understand the performance of the study (QSEN Institute, 2020). The topic selected to discuss in this paper is the effects of a new oral care program on preventing ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) vs. the effect of traditional oral care on preventing VAP. VAP results in 30%-70% mortality in mechanically ventilated patients and extends hospital stays by 6-7 days (Yazdannik et al., 2018).

Article Summary

Introduction

The article chooses two different methods of performing oral care and identifies if there are any differences in the method's ability to prevent VAP. The methods differ in the frequency and the method of performing oral care. This study identifies if one method is preferred to prevent VAP. After analyzing the study results, the researchers found no significant differences in the methods and abilities to prevent VAP. This study shows that all though oral in ventilated

patients is very important, the difference in the method of oral care may not be as significant as the act of performing oral (Yazdannik et al., 2018).

Overview

Research in the past has shown that oral care in the ventilated patient is efficient in preventing VAP. This research article identifies if the frequency of oral care plays a role in preventing VAP. It is crucial to identify if an increase in oral care frequency would positively prevent VAP in patients. It is identifying if the frequency of oral care in ventilated patients would prevent more cases of VAP and improve the quality and safety of the health care system.

Quality Improvement

If the research showed that an increase in frequency would help prevent more cases of VAP, this could be a new policy for an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). If this change had gone into effect, an increase in oral care supplies would be necessary. In the pre-stage of implementation, the facility implementing this research would need to allocate funds to increase the oral care supply, educate staff members on the change, and train staff members accordingly. During the intra-stage of implementation, it would be necessary for the hospital to collect data on the changes they made to see if these changes have decreased the amount of VAP they see in patients. Finally, in the post-implementation stage, the data they collected should be reviewed to ensure the change positively affected the facility.

If these changes went into effect, oral care supplies would need to increase. This increase in supplies could become a financial strain on the hospital. The cost of this would depend on how many ventilated patients the facility can care for at one time. Which would have a very positive effect on patient satisfaction as well as increase patient safety. If the research had shown that the

frequency of oral prevented VAP, implementing this would have lowered the chances for a patient to contract VAP, increasing their safety and satisfaction. Implementing this change would increase the responsibility of nurses, which could be stressful for those nurses and decrease nursing satisfaction. As for nursing safety, this could increase nursing safety by decreasing nursing ratios. For example, since a patient who contracts VAP increases their stay by 6-7 days, this could add patients to the unit that did not need to be there as long. This addition of patients could affect nursing-to-patient ratios (Yazdannik et al., 2018).

Application to Nursing

Here add in a summary of the information learned to the application to practice. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com. Be sure to cover all aspects within the rubric. Be sure to use double space and to tab over for your first line of a new paragraph.

Practice

Paragraph goes here discussing the application to practice. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

Education

Paragraph goes here discussing the application to education. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

Research

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Conclusion

Write a conclusion here in your overall paper. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

References

QSEN Institute (2020). *QSEN competencies*.

https://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksas/#quality_improvement

Yazdannik, A., Atashi, V., Yousefi, H., Mahjobipoor, H., & Bekhradi, R. (2018). Effect of oral care program on prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia in intensive care unit patients: A randomized controlled trial. *Iranian Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Research*, 23(6), 486. https://doi.org/10.4103/ijnmr.ijnmr_164_17