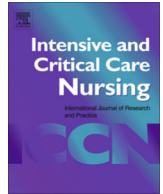




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Intensive & Critical Care Nursing

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/icc

The national Australian survey about nurses' knowledge of evidence based guidelines for ventilated patients: and the Belgian national bundle campaign?

Dear Editor

Madhuvu and colleagues recently reported the results of a national survey in Australia regarding guidelines for prevention of ventilator associated events: participants lack knowledge of evidence-based guidelines for the prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia (Madhuvu et al., 2020). They conclude that specific education on ventilator-associated events may improve awareness and guideline adherence.

In 2012 the Federal Health Ministry decided to start a pluri-annual campaign in the Belgian intensive care units (ICU) of acute hospitals to enhance the application of a care bundle to influence respiratory management of patients receiving artificial ventilatory support (Reper et al., 2017). The result was a broad reflexion by intensive care teams about the care of patients with artificial ventilation leading to better compliance and to the application of evidence based measures. This was proposed by the college of Belgian intensivists after analysis of the international literature and consensus in Europe (Rello et al., 2011; Lorente et al., 2007). Mouth care, sedation modalities were discussed in the hospitals before starting the data registration and easily applicable measures were also optimised in the ICU's like patient positioning and endotracheal cuff pressure measurements.

This study concludes a better follow up of the bundle elements during all day nursing shifts, a trend to diminish ventilator associated infectious events and ICU days under artificial ventilation (Reper et al., 2017). Even if ventilator-associated pneumonia remains a difficult diagnosis like observed by Ego and colleagues, this study has shown that national campaigns could influence the management of critical patients under respiratory support and the application of evidence based bundles (Ego et al., 2015). National surveys lead first to a local reflection about the actual practices compared with the health authorities propositions before starting registration. This can effectively influence nurse's knowledge and enhance compliance to evidence based measures with possible results on the patients evolution and complications incidence in the ICU like ventilator associated events (Reper et al., 2017).

The study of Madhuvu et al. confirms the observations of the Belgian study: better knowledge promoted by national data registration could lead to a better compliance to proposed guidelines and evidence based measures for a better management of critical patients with ventilator support. The Australian survey and the

Belgian campaign also confirm the need for preliminary sensibilisation and reflexion secondary to education campaigns on these problems. Better compliance is a result of this preliminary phases like observed in the Belgian ICUs before starting registration on compliance. This seems to be an important factor for better care of critical patients like patients under respiratory support.

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