

## ARE THE INTENSIVE CARE NURSES KNOWLEDGABLE IN CARING FOR PATIENTS WITH ENDORACHEAL TUBE? RESULT FROM NATIONAL HOSPITAL COLOMBO

**Colombage, T.D.**<sup>1</sup>, Goonewardena, C.S.E.<sup>2</sup>

1. National Hospital of Sri Lanka.
2. Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

**Background :** Endotracheal intubation and mechanical ventilation are essential lifesaving treatment for many critically ill patients. Artificial air ways are utilized to facilitate mechanical ventilation. Endotracheal suctioning (ETS) is one of the most common procedures performed in patients with artificial airways. It is a component of bronchial hygiene therapy and mechanical ventilation that involves the mechanical aspiration of pulmonary secretions from a patient's artificial airway to prevent its obstruction.

**Aim :** To describe the intensive care unit (ICU) nurses' knowledge in caring for patients with Endotracheal Tube (ETT) in National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL).

**Methods:** A cross sectional hospital based study was done among nurses in all ICUs of NHSL. Self-administered questionnaire was developed by using American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC) clinical Practice guideline 2010. Ethical approval was obtained from Ethics Review Committee, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Data was analyzed by using SPSS 16 version.

**Results:** Total sample size was 334. Response rate was 55.4%. Majority of nurses were females (N= 170, 91.9%) and mean age was  $31.74 \pm 5.69$  SD years. Majority had less than 5 years of ICU experience (56.2%). Mean knowledge was  $69.7 \pm 12.66$  SD. Only half had good knowledge (N = 94, 50.8%) on endotracheal tube care. Majority had good knowledge on statements on ventilated patients oral care (N= 183, 98.9%), humidification ((N= 176, 95.1%) and optimal cuff pressure (N= 155, 83.1%). Knowledge was poor for statement "oral secretions may pool above the cuff leading to ventilator associated pneumonia" (VAP) (N= 22, 11.1%), Selecting suitable suction catheter (44%) and colonization in vaporized water (18%).

**Conclusions:** Most nurses were not aware of the current protocol or guidelines related to ET tube care. Significant deficiencies were observed with tracheal complications and tracheal traumatize activities which may can lead to serious and harmful effect to the patients.

Email of the Corresponding Author: [tdcolombage@gmail.com](mailto:tdcolombage@gmail.com)