

Service Priorities and Programmes

Electronic Presentations

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Project for Changing Current Practice on oral care in an Adult Intensive Care Unit

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Introduction

Ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) is defined as pneumonia occurring more than 48 hours after patients have been intubated and receiving mechanical ventilation. DNA clinic studies have confirmed that up to 90% of VAP is caused by pathogens colonizing to the mouth. Yet, there are no standardized guidelines and protocol to provide oral care for the ventilated patient by Hospital Authority in Hong Kong. Instead, oral care practices for the ventilated patients vary among different intensive care unit (ICU) in Hong Kong. In United Christian Hospital ICU, there is no comprehensive oral care protocol. Majority of nurses in our unit use boiled cold water to perform oral care in intubated case. According to the literature, 0.2% Chlorhexidine gluconate mouth wash is effective on both gram positive and negative bacteria, and was associated with a beneficial effect for preventing VAP. Therefore, in our ICU, a project was developed to introduce a evidence based practice on oral care to prevent VAP formation.

Objectives

To increase health care team (HCT) members' confidence to support the change of current practice in our unit

Methodology

Estabilshed a workgroup in Jan 2011 to: 1. Perform literature review for the best method for oral care in intubated patient 2. Gather data from other ICUs for learning and sharing their oral care methods 3. Provide a workshop to the nursing staff in our unit, with the aim to alert staff's awareness in the cause of VAP, the pathogens involved, and the complication. Thereafter, we introduce the evidence based practice of using 0.2% Chlorhexidine gluconate solution in oral care and its benefit. 4. Pilot study was carried out in July 2011 to test patient's response and staff's feedback of the new oral care solution 5. A 'Pre-change' vs 'Post-change' design was employed to explore nurses' perception about the proposed evidence-based practice oral care for ventilated patient in our unit

Result

54 nurses (~77% of total nursing staff) were being recruited. After the workshorp, 85%

of the staff attended expressed would like to use 0.2% Chlorhexidine gluconate mouth wash solution for oral care in ventilated case. After the pilot study, there is 20% increase of nurses' satisfaction about the new oral care method with reduced oral care frequency It was a successful improvement project because it allow staff to adopt change to good practice gradually and systematically.