Abstract

**Background:** ventilator support usually necessitates endotracheal tubes or tracheostomy. Therefore ICU nurses are responsible for ensuring potency of and minimizing complications from, artificial airways.

**Methods:** this descriptive study was set up to evaluate nursing care given to patient with endotracheal tube in intensive care unites of Army hospitals in Tehran (2004). A convenience sample of 65 ICU staffs in four Army hospitals was accrued. Data were gathered by a demographic and a hospital instrument questionnaire, also a checklist about three domains of preventing infection, sufficiency of ventilation and oxygenation and safety and comfort of patients.

**Results:** data were analyzed by $X^2$. There was a significant difference among four hospitals ($p<0.01$) in preventing infections, no difference in sufficiency of ventilation and oxygenation and a significant difference in providing patients with safety and comfort ($p<0.001$). The results demonstrated that providing patient's safety and comfort was not good, ventilation and oxygenation were insufficient and preventing infections were not effective.

**Keywords:** quality, nursing care of intubated patients, intensive care unites

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