

DOES THE PRESENCE OF ORAL CARE GUIDELINES AFFECT ORAL CARE DELIVERY BY INTENSIVE CARE UNIT NURSES? A SURVEY OF SAUDI INTENSIVE CARE UNIT NURSES

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Objectives:

The study was to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes and practices of oral care delivery by ICU nurses for mechanically ventilated patients in Saudi Arabia, with particular emphasis on the presence of oral care guidelines for ICUs and healthcare quality accreditation of the institution.

Methods:

215 nurses from 10 hospitals were included in this study from Riyadh city, Saudi Arabia. The nurses' attitudes, knowledge, oral care delivery, presence of oral care guidelines in the ICU and healthcare quality accreditation status of the hospital were recorded

Results:

The vast majority of the nurses agreed that the oral cavity is very difficult to clean and that oral care delivery is a high priority for mechanically ventilated patients. Almost half of the participants used some type of a mouthwash every 4 hours with 94.4% of them reporting that they use Chlorhexidine 0.12% mouthwash. Manual toothbrushes were used at least once every 12 hours by 58.1% of the nurses. The mean score of the oral care practices for the nurses with oral care guidelines was higher than the one for nurses without oral care guidelines, which was statistically significant ($P = 0.034$, $t = 2.13$).

Conclusion:

The statistical impact of the presence of oral care guidelines in the ICU has proven to be a deciding factor in the improvement of the nurses' oral care delivery.