

Enhancing Tracheostomy Care Knowledge Among Nurses in Intensive Care Units

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Patients requiring continuous mechanical ventilation benefit from easier airway management through tracheostomy, a standard treatment in critical care. However, gaps in nurses' comprehension of tracheostomy care can lead to complications such as infections and airway blockages. Therefore, understanding nurses' competency in tracheostomy care is essential for enhancing patient outcomes in intensive care units (ICUs). A cross-sectional study was conducted in the southern West Bank of Palestine among 237 nurses working in ICUs to assess their level of knowledge in tracheostomy care. Data were gathered via a structured questionnaire and analyzed using inferential tests and descriptive. Most nurses showed moderate knowledge of tracheostomy care, with significant differences observed based on age, gender, years of experience, and educational level. To significantly improve patient outcomes and safety in ICUs, it is imperative that nurses participate in continuous education and training programs focused on tracheostomy care.

Key words: *intensive care units, knowledge level, nurses, Palestine, tracheostomy*

INTRODUCTION

Tracheostomy is a common surgical intervention for critically ill patients.¹ Between 10% and 15% of patients hospitalized in critical care units (ICUs) undergo a tracheostomy, a procedure that can be performed surgically

or percutaneously.² The primary purpose of tracheostomy is to facilitate the removal of respiratory secretions, assist with prolonged and aided breathing, and prevent blockage in the upper airway. Tracheostomy can be utilized as either a long-term intervention or a temporary solution.³

The patient's recovery is significantly impacted by effective tracheostomy care.⁴ A multidisciplinary approach is necessary, particularly focusing on nurses, to prevent complications such as bleeding, infection, and tube blockage.⁵ Nurses are the first to assess and respond to any issues, promptly notifying the attending physician. Therefore, it is crucial for nurses to possess expertise in tracheostomy care and the necessary skills required to prevent any complications. As

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