



Complications related to enteral catheterization in an adult intensive care unit

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Feeding through the enteral catheter is an important method to prevent malnutrition in critically ill patients, admitted to intensive care units (ICU). It is considered a method of easy operation and low cost, but if the instructions or control are not adequate, it can directly impact patient safety. The present study aimed to identify complications resulting from the use of enteral catheterization in critically ill patients admitted to the adult ICU. For this, a quantitative, cross-sectional, descriptive study was carried out, using qualitative and quantitative variables. It was carried out in an Intensive Care Unit, of a public hospital that is a reference in emergency care in Campos dos Goytacazes. The sample was selected for convenience, including patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit for the care of adult patients and using an enteral tube for more than 24 hours. The data were selected through a semi-structured script and were collected from a secondary source (a patient record). Through the information obtained, we found the occurrence of several complications due to failures in nursing care, among the most cited are 27.3% of bronchoaspiration and obstruction of the tube, followed by 22.7% of its accidental removal. Among the items related to these complications, we found 20 episodes of lack of secure fixation of the probe and lack of washing of the catheter and 13 occurrences of lack of elevated headboard and lack of interruption of the drip when manipulating the diet. Characterizing the subjects of this research we found 60% women and 40% of men with an average age of 59 years. According to the clinical conditions of these patients assisted at the Unit, we found 36.7% of pneumonia, followed by 26.7% postoperatively and 16.7% of stroke. We conclude that patient safety is directly related to the quality of care, where 73.3% of patients experienced complications during the enteral catheter stay, requiring the development of proposals for continuous monitoring through indicators so that training with the nursing team is carried out. focused on the reasons that led to these complications.

Keywords: Catheter. Nursing care. Patient safety.

Supported by: ISECENSA.