The Research and Scholarship Symposium

Apr 16th, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Oral Care Interventions to Prevent Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia in Mechanically-Ventilated Adults

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**EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE QUESTION**

**Question:** Is chlorhexidine the best method of oral care to prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia in mechanically-ventilated patients?

- **P:** mechanically ventilated adults in an acute care setting
- **I:** use of chlorhexidine to prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP)
- **C:** use of chlorhexidine versus the use of hydrogen peroxide to prevent VAP, which was compared to tooth-brushing versus non-tooth-brushing
- **O:** chlorhexidine is a better alternative than hydrogen peroxide to prevent VAP

**METHODS**

- Literature published between 2008 and 2013 was reviewed using PUBMED, MEDLINE, CINAHL, Cochrane, and Up To Date using the key words “oral care,” “ventilator-associated pneumonia,” “toothbrushing,” “VAP,” “oral hygiene,” “hydrogen peroxide,” and “pneumonia.”

**RESULTS**

- **Table:** Synthesis of evidence showing the effectiveness of different oral care practices in preventing VAP.

**LIMITATIONS**

- Including studies with small sample sizes
- Differing study designs
- Differing definitions of VAP
- Differing oral care protocols
- Differing methods of data collection