Noise in Critical Care Units. Adverse Effects on Critically Ill Patients and Health Care Personnel

Thesis

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Abstract

Intensive Care Units (ICUs) have complex biomedical equipment for the continuous monitoring of patients who have serious physical conditions, to support their vital functions. This equipment is used by health professionals to give specialized treatment and care. Healthcare staffs are not also apart from the deleterious effect of noise in ICUs. Noise diminishes the performance of healthcare providers in tests of mental efficiency.

In the present study, the mean age of the included patients was 61.77±12.4; while more than two thirds (70%) were 60 years old or older. Regarding comorbidities; HTN, DM, IHD, CKD constituted the majority of co-comorbidities among study participants (60%, 50%, 26.7%, and 16.7%, respectively). In our cohort, acute myocardial infarction or unstable angina; pulmonary congestion or edema; cardiac arrhythmias; and congestive heart failure represented the most frequent causes of ICU admissions among study participants.

Recommendations: Noise ameilorating techniques as music can be reduced to reduce burnout and depression symptoms among health care personnel. Further studies are needed to evaluate the effect of noise ameliorating strategies as music on patient outcome.

Key words: Intensive Care Units, Critically Ill, Health Care Personnel

List of Abbreviations