

Abstract

The thesis deals with the reasons for disconnecting the ventilation circuit and the frequency of individual causes. It is part of a broader and more comprehensive study whose common goal is to combat ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP). The theoretical part of the thesis briefly describes the definition of VAP and its preventive elements. However, it highlights the conflict between manufacturers' recommendations and the results of the latest studies regarding the interval for replacing individual components of the ventilation circuit. Furthermore, it draws attention to the limited and insufficient emphasis placed on this issue both in the theoretical sphere and in clinical practice.

The practical part of the thesis presents the results of the conducted observation, whose main objective is to identify the most common cause of ventilation circuit disconnection. The assumption was a high proportion of the frequency of replacing individual circuit components, especially the passive heat and moisture exchanger, which was confirmed by the results of the research survey. Another objective was to observe hygiene practices in the care of the ventilation circuit, which had not been fully defined before. Equally important was the establishment of foundations for creating standardized procedures and highlighting current shortcomings.

This thesis has helped uncover another less-explored area in the prevention of VAP and emphasizes the importance of nurses, who play a significant role in this issue. Even a small change in procedure can have a huge impact and contribute to reducing the incidence of VAP.