Paediatric Tracheostomy – how confident are nurses in managing a new tracheostomy?

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PICU/HDU nurses were very confident managing:
- blocked/displaced tracheostomy tubes
- resuscitating a patient with a tracheostomy

PICU/HDU nurses were less confident in the use of stay sutures.

Currently there are no consensus statements of requirements for refresher training.

We recommend training sessions are provided based on the targeted needs of the individual units and annual updates are undertaken.

Introduction

Paediatric tracheostomy care requires specialist nursing skills with competency assessment following initial training. However, there are no consensus statements of requirements for refresher training.

This study aims to review the levels of confidence in the nursing teams managing children with tracheostomy and identify potential areas to support professional development.

Method

Nurses on:
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU),
- Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)
- Paediatric High Dependency Unit (HDU)

in our hospital were asked to complete a questionnaire assessing confidence in paediatric tracheostomy care over a 2 week period in 2017.

Results

37 surveys were completed.

In PICU & HDU; Over 80% of nurses were confident:
- assessing a blocked/dislodged tracheostomy tube
- resuscitating a patient with a tracheostomy

Nurses reported lower confidence levels:
- using stay suture for re-insertion of a new tracheostomy
- assessing air leaks around the tube

The NICU teams’ levels of confidence overall were lower than their counterparts.

Conclusion

Whilst confidence levels in most areas of tracheostomy care are high, we recommend training sessions are provided based on the targeted needs of the individual units and annual updates are undertaken.

Future work

Outcomes for Simulation Based Training in:
- Paediatric airway
- Professionalism & Patient Safety