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NUCHANAT PIBOONRATANAKUL: NURSING ACTIVITIES TO PREPARE PATIENTS FOR WEANING FROM MECHANICAL VENTILATOR. THEMATIC PAPER ADVISORS: KRONGDAI UNHASUTA, Ed.D., PENCHUN SAREEWI WATHANA, M.Sc. ISBN 974-664-321-5

This was an observational study on nursing activities to prepare patients to be weaned away from mechanical ventilator. The sample in this study were the seven registered nurses who had a diploma in nursing, have cared for patients with a ventilator for more than three years, and worked in the medical and surgical intensive care unit at Ratchaburi Hospital and the patient's chart. These nurses prepared the 29 patients studied in this research for weaning from mechanical ventilator. The investigator collected the data by observation. The collected data gathered from the study were analyzed by frequency and percentage for the patients' demographic data and mean and standard deviation for physiological and psychological readiness score.

The results of this study revealed that the nurses prepared readiness to all patients by assessing dynamic compliance. The nurse prepared readiness to most of patients by checking vital signs, assessing chest movement and chest expansion (93.10, 89.66, 82.72% respectively). Laboratory testing, checking lung volume and monitoring EKG were prepared less than 70.00% and physiological readiness was prepared with mean of 15.17,(range 0-23). Psychological readiness was prepared with a mean of 2.07 (range 0-5). The majority of the patients had been prepared for psychological readiness by assisting communication (75.86%). These patients were prepared by anxiety evaluation, anxiety reduction, instilling confidence in the ability to breathe and by motivation to breathe 34.48, 34.48, 31.03, 27.29% respectively. The result in weaning from the mechanical ventilator was successful at 72.41%.

The recommendations of this study have shown that the nurses working in the medical and surgical intensive care unit, should be aware of proper techniques to prepare patients both physiologically and psychologically for weaning from mechanical ventilator. Furthermore, nursing staff and physicians involved should cooperate in criteria setting to assess the readiness for weaning from the mechanical ventilator and establish the standard of nursing care for patients undergoing weaning and increase the rate of successful weaning from mechanical ventilators.