

Abstract

Introduction: Arterial catheter placement by a general nurse at the departments of intensive care, resuscitation and anaesthesiology is still rather exceptional, despite the fact that this competence was defined in our legal system for the first time already in 2004 by the Decree no. 424/2004 Coll. of the Ministry of Health. The authorisation to execute this highly professional operation by a nurse specialised in intensive care is generally not reflected by the employer in the job description, although it might be one of the possible ways to increase the prestige of this profession.

Objectives: The main objective of the thesis was to determine the current state in the area of arterial line placement from the perspective of intensive care nurses, to quantify their interest and clarify their readiness to execute the operation.

Methodology: The quantitative method of anonymous questionnaire of own design was selected for the research survey. The questionnaire was distributed in electronic way to hospitals established by the Ministry of Health, regional government or private owners. We contacted one large hospital in every region, with the exception of Prague. The research sample consisted of general nurses working at the departments of intensive care, resuscitation and anaesthesiology, who at the same time are graduates of specialised Intensive Care Nurse /Intensive Care (ARIP/IP) training or Intensive Care (IP) master's degree program.

Results: In the conditions of Czech healthcare, 21.74 % of nurses with specialised qualification in Intensive Care execute arterial cannulation for invasive monitoring of blood pressure at their respective departments of intensive care, resuscitation and anaesthesiology. Out of the remaining 78.26 % of intensive care nurses who do not execute this operation, 47.92 % expressed interest in its execution. Total 57.61 % of intensive care nurses were not aware of the decree regulating their competences, including cannulation and arterial puncture. The research survey further revealed lack of knowledge of complications in connection with arterial cannulation in 19.57 % of nurses for intensive care.

Conclusion: The research survey clarified the current state and quantified the interest of intensive care nurses at the clinical workplaces to execute arterial cannulation for intensive monitoring of blood pressure. The thesis contributed to the recognition of some of the imperfections in the readiness of intensive care nurses to execute this operation.

Keywords: cannulation, arterial catheter, specialised nurse, intensive care, competence