ABSTRACT

The main reason for choosing the topic of study, is an increasing number of long-term ventilator-dependent patients undergoing weaning process from artificial pulmonary ventilation at intensive care units.

The content of the chapters include anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system, pathophysiology and some diseases associated with the ventilator-dependence. Also, the development and characteristics of the OCHRIP – NIP and DIOP, the weaning procedure and the role of the nurses in the weaning process. This study presents goals and hypothesis of investigation, as well as a variety of methodologies used.

The study presents two aims of the research. Firstly, to map the experience and knowledge of nurses when disconnecting patients from artificial lung ventilation. Secondly, to find out how nurses perceive the care of these patients, including their view on the possibilities for further development of weaning process care. The research was carried out at ARO, ICU, NIP and DIOP bed units at five hospitals and two faculties of Intensive Care. It involved an anonymous questionnaire of 147 respondents (nurses) and students.

The main finding of the research is that nurses have sufficient knowledge and experience in weaning from mechanical ventilation, notwithstanding they underestimate their own knowledge. This knowledge is gained from their practical experience in the workplace. Most nurses would welcome a unified weaning protocol and would like further education in this area. While most nurses would welcome the creation of respiratory centres, most do not want to work there. The education of the patient and their family about the weaning process is sufficient, despite the fact most nurses do not have the ability to provide integral advice and rely on information provided by a doctor.

This diploma thesis could serve as a manual and guide in updating knowledge regarding weaning from mechanical ventilation. Our endeavor was to create a weaning protocol that will be offered to NIP and DIOP head nurses and in the form of a seminar to the nursing staff.

Keywords:

Weaning from mechanical ventilation; OCHRIP – Department of Chronic Resuscitation and Intensive Care; artificial pulmonary ventilation; long-term ventilation; providing airways; intensive nursing care; DUPV – Home mechanical ventilation.