

Oral Defense Announcement

University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Family Nurse Practitioner

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Management of Post-Extubation Dysphagia using the Yale Swallow Protocol

Date: July 10, 2024
Time: 2:00p
Place: Remote

Abstract

Problem: Post extubation dysphagia (PED) increases the patient's risk for long term complications contributing to increased healthcare cost. Intensive care settings rarely use standardized swallow screening assessments for patients after they have been extubated leading to variation in the evaluation of PED. Variation in the assessment of swallowing post extubation can lead to underdiagnosing patients with dysphagia.

Methods: This quality improvement (QI) project was a prospective cohort study implementing an evidence-based swallow screening protocol, the Yale Swallow Protocol (YSP), in an intensive care unit. This study was conducted over four months, which included a pre survey, education, implementation, and post survey. Qualitative and quantitative data was data collected from the electronic medical record on the patient responses to the screening. Survey results were distributed via QR code on a flyer and recorded in an Excel sheet via Google Forms.

Results: The number of screenings was 24, 11 passes (46%), 8 fails (33%), and 4 (17%) were exclusions. Six (75%) of the failed screenings were validated with a fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing test (FEES) or modified barium swallow study (MBS) showing mild to moderate dysphagia (n=4, 67%), aspiration (n=1, 17%), and laryngeal edema (n=1, 17%).

Implications for Practice: The YSP provided the intensive care unit with a swallow screen that identified extubated patients with an increased risk for dysphagia.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Chairperson, Joshua Minks, PhD, FNP-C
Committee Faculty Member, Tonya Haynes, DNP, RN
Committee Member, Pamela Hale-David, MSN, RN