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Oral care based on evidence-based practice in war conditions

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Statement of the Problem: Iraq has been in a war status since 2003. Falling of the Saddam regime in 2003, almost daily terrorist attaches from 2003-2014 and the occupation of some Iraqi cities by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) from 2014-2017; put Iraq under the war condition. Iraqi nurses have played an important role, in that threatening situations, to provide a holistic care for Iraqi patients; especially war wounded who are admitted to Intensive Care Units (ICUs). The purpose of this study is to assess Iraqi nurse's practice toward oral care for intubated patients in ICUs.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: In a cross-sectional study, the non-probability (purposive) sampling method was used to assess nurse's practice based on a self-administered questionnaire. Johnson's behavioral system model was used as a framework which supports illness prevention by fostering the behavioral functioning.

Findings: 61% of the study sample reported enough knowledge regarding oral care for intubated patients and 63% of them give care based on the evidence-based practice. The results indicated that there is no significant correlation (Spearman's $r=0.07$, $p=0.438$) between nurse's educational levels and their practice toward oral care for intubated patients. About half of the study sample provides oral care based on what they have learned from more experienced nurses.

Conclusion & Significance: War conditions have significant effects on nursing care based on evidence-based practice. However, nurses can practice based on evidences, even in war conditions, if they use the behavioral system as their knowledge base. Focusing on the continuous education can improve nurse's knowledge and practice toward oral care for intubated patients by updating their (recent graduate and more experienced nurses) information regarding oral care.

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