The effect of the ABCDE assessment method and an educational session on nursing physical assessment in the general ICU at Dr Sardjito Hospital, Special Region Yogyakarta, Indonesia

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Signed Statement

I certify that this thesis contains no material that has been accepted for any award of any other degree or diploma in any other university.

To the best of my knowledge, this thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

I give consent to this thesis being available for loan and photocopying, when deposited in the School of Nursing Library.

Eri Yanuar Akhmad Budi Sunaryo
8 October 2015
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### List of Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABCDE</td>
<td>Airway, breathing, circulation, disability, exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABG</td>
<td>Arterial blood gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCCN</td>
<td>Australian College of Critical Care Nurses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATLS</td>
<td>Advanced Trauma Life Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINAHL</td>
<td>Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNE</td>
<td>Continuing nursing education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRT</td>
<td>Capillary refill time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTD</td>
<td>Cognitive Test for Delirium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP</td>
<td>Central venous pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECG</td>
<td>Electrocardiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETT</td>
<td>Endotracheal tube</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCS</td>
<td>Glasgow Coma Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HREC</td>
<td>Human Research Ethics Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTT</td>
<td>Head-to-toe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICDSC</td>
<td>Intensive Care Delirium Screening Checklist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU</td>
<td>Intensive care unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPA</td>
<td>Inspection, palpation, percussion and auscultate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHREC</td>
<td>Medical and Health Research Ethics Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MV</td>
<td>Mechanical ventilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RASS</td>
<td>Richmond agitation–sedation scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIPPLES</td>
<td>Recognition in prior professional learning, experiences, and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPSS</td>
<td>Statistical Package for Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAP</td>
<td>Ventilator-associated pneumonia</td>
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Abstract

**Background:** Nurses responsibility for physical assessment has changed greatly over the years. Traditionally nurses had very limited responsibility for physical assessment and patient assessment was not considered to be part of the nursing role. As nurses’ roles have become more sophisticated, patient assessment skills have become essential (McKenna et al. 2011). There have been no studies regarding the effect of an education session on nursing physical assessment using the airway, breathing, circulation, disability, exposure and equipment (ABCDE) approach in intensive care unit (ICU) settings.

**Methods:** The research design for this study was quasi-experimental. The participants were all nurses working in the general ICU of Dr Sardjito Hospital in Special Region Yogyakarta, Indonesia \((n=24)\). The intervention in this study was an education session regarding physical assessment utilising the ABCDE approach.

**Results:** Analysis of the effect of an education session on ABCDE physical assessment revealed that all dependent variables had \(p < 0.05\) (airway and disability, \(p = 0.001\); breathing, circulation, exposure and equipment aspects, \(p < 0.0001\)), which suggests that the education session had a significant effect on ABCDE physical assessment in the ICU.

**Conclusions:** Physical assessment with the ABCDE approach has been shown to provide a structured and systematic method in nursing physical assessment, and to influence nurses’ actions regarding physical assessment in the ICU setting. This method also shows considerable promise and has the potential to contribute to improving the practice of assessment in various clinical settings.

**Keywords:** nursing, physical assessment, intensive care unit, ICU.