

PublisherInfo		
PublisherName	:	BioMed Central
PublisherLocation	:	London
PublisherImprintName	:	BioMed Central

A validated delirium instrument for the ICU

ArticleInfo		
ArticleID	:	4325
ArticleDOI	:	10.1186/ccf-2002-75550
ArticleCitationID	:	75550
ArticleSequenceNumber	:	25
ArticleCategory	:	Paper Report
ArticleFirstPage	:	1
ArticleLastPage	:	3
ArticleHistory	:	RegistrationDate : 2002-2-8 Received : 2002-2-8 Accepted : 2002-2-11 OnlineDate : 2002-2-11
ArticleCopyright	:	Biomed Central Ltd2002
ArticleGrants	:	

Richard Venn,^{Aff1}

Aff1 Worthing Hospital, UK

Keywords

delirium, mechanical ventilation, monitoring

Context

The incidence of delirium has been difficult to define in the ICU since no validated simple delirium assessment instrument exists. Consequently identifying risk factors for delirium in the ICU in an attempt to develop preventative strategies has proved difficult. This study validates the Confusion Assessment Method for ICU patients (CAM-ICU) and determines the incidence of delirium in the ICU.

Significant findings

Delirium occurred in 83% of patients during their ICU stay for a mean of 2.4 days. Two ICU nurses using the CAM-ICU had sensitivities of 100% and 93%, and specificities of 98% and 100% for the diagnosis of delirium when compared with assessments by delirium experts. Duration of CAM-ICU assessments was two (mean) minutes.

Comments

This study has validated the CAM-ICU delirium assessment score, which appears to be a relatively simple and quick assessment to perform in the ICU. Subgroup analysis shows good sensitivity and specificity for this test in those patients expected to be a sedation challenge; the elderly, those with dementia, and those with the highest severity of illness. It also appears that the incidence of delirium is much higher than previously reported. In the future we will be able to identify those patients at risk of delirium and change sedation practice to prevent its occurrence.

Methods

Prospective cohort study over 6 month period involving 111 mechanically ventilated patients in the ICU, comparison of nurse led CAM-ICU delirium assessments with those by delirium experts

References

1. Ely EW, Inouye SK, Bernard GR, Gordon S, Francis J, May L, Truman B, Speroff T, Gautam S, Margolin R, Hart RP, Dittus R: Delirium in mechanically ventilated patients: validity and reliability of the confusion assessment method for the intensive care unit. *JAMA*. 2001, 286: 2703-2710.