

Abstract

Original Article

Evaluation Nurses' Practices for Medication Administration Via Enteral Feeding Tube

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Abstract

Background: Administering medication via enteral tube is a complex application and nursing responsibility across countries. There are a series of knowledge and skills, which nurses must possess for this application. Any mistake made by nurses during medication administration can constitute a life threat for the patient. It is necessary to use the evidence-based guidelines from the aspect of providing for patient safety in the enteral medication administrations.

Objectives: This study's objective was to evaluate nurses according to evidence-based practice recommendations for medication administrations from an enteral feeding tube.

Methodology: This descriptive research was implemented on nurses working at treatment units with beds of two state hospitals in Izmir Province. Data were obtained between May-July 2014 from 184 nurses who participated voluntarily. Based on the literature, researchers developed "The Survey for Evaluation of Nurses for Medication Administrations from a Enteral Feeding Tube" for data collection. The percentage calculation was used in data analysis.

Results: There were no enteral feeding support units nurses at the study hospitals. Of the nurses, 64.1% stated that they had not received enteral feeding training and 81.0% stated that there was no written guideline at their clinics. Of the nurses, 98.9% checked feeding tube placement before medication administration: 54.9% used the auscultation method and 27.7% used the aspiration method. Of the nurses, 70.1% opened capsule drugs, 96.2% gave tablet drugs and 79.3% gave film coated pills by crushing and diluting in water.

Conclusion: Majority of the nurses' feeding tube medication administrations did not coincide with evidence-based practice recommendations. It was proposed that enteral medication administration guidelines should be used at hospitals. According to this study, patient safety may be compromised by nurses administering medication through enteral tubes. This study highlights evidence-based guidelines should be used in the enteral medication administration.

Keywords: evidence-based practice, enteral feeding, medication administration.