ICU Nurse's Judgment of the Validity of a PICS Assessment Tool

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**Purpose:** The long-term consequences of critical illnesses are growing in importance, with the increase in demand for critical care with the aging population and decrease in the short-term mortality of critical illnesses. The term post-intensive care syndrome (PICS) has been coined by consensus to describe new impairments or worsening of the physical, cognitive, or mental health status after a critical illness that persists beyond acute care hospitalization. It has been demonstrated that PICS can adversely affect the quality of life, family integrity, and social outcomes of these patients. Some reported, interdisciplinary support for patients who have received medical care at intensive care unit (ICU) is being provided. However we believe that early detection of the symptoms of PICS is important, and developed a PICS assessment tool for ICU nurses. The PICS assessment tool consists of 18 risk assessment items and 33 observation items. The purpose of this study was to clarify the ICU nurses’ judgment of the validity of the items included in the PICS assessment tool.

**Methods:** The survey questionnaire was mailed to 129 ICU nurses in Japan, who were expected to be aware about the entity of PICS. The survey questionnaire contained questions pertaining to the signs and symptoms of PICS. The respondents were expected to indicate their responses on a 4-grade scale, from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". We compared the response rates of the participants (strongly agree/agree and disagree/strongly disagree) for each of the items in the PICS assessment tool.
Results: The number of responses that were eligible for inclusion in the analyses was 59 (45.7%). Most of the participants responded to nearly all of the items in the PICS assessment tool with “strongly agree/agree”. Significant differences in the response rates were observed 16 of the risk assessment items and 32 of the observation items included in the PICS assessment tool.

No significant differences in the responses to the risk items of “female” and “unemployed status” and the observation item of “patient wearing slovenly clothes” were observed.

Conclusion: It is important for ICU nurses to be able to use the PICS assessment tool during daily routine work in the ICU. Draft items with a significant number of responses of “strongly agree/agree” were considered as valid items for inclusion in the PICS assessment tool. These results suggest that the risk assessment items of “female” and “unemployed status” and observation item of “patient wearing slovenly clothes” are not suitable items for inclusion in the PICS assessment tool. All the ICU nurses believed that patients need to be assessed regardless of the gender or occupation. Furthermore, hospitalized patients often wear clothes given by the hospital, and the ICU nurses thought that “patient wearing slovenly clothes” was not an appropriate item for inclusion in the PICS assessment tool. Based on the results of the survey, it was concluded that the risk items of “female” and “unemployed status” and observation item of “patient wearing slovenly clothes” are not suitable items for inclusion in the PICS assessment tool.

Title:
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Keywords:
ICU, Nursing and Post intensive care syndrome

Abstract Summary:
The author educates critical care nursing at university in Japan. Post intensive care syndrome is very important for maintaining long-term quality of life of patients, so it is indispensable for nursing at ICU. Educating for nursing students about PICS, nurses will able to improve clinical practice skills at ICU.

References:

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Any relevant financial relationships? Yes

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Signed on 10/26/2019 by Harumi Ejiri

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