

## **Abstract**

**Introduction:** Ventilator-associated pneumonia is a very serious disease that can occur in patients with mechanical ventilatory support. Ventilator pneumonia leads to deterioration of the patient's health status, increased cost of care and prolonged hospitalization in the intensive care unit. Nurses should use evidence-based interventions in the prevention of this disease. These include, for example, upper body elevation or proper airway toileting. Nurses' education plays an indispensable role in the prevention of ventilator associated pneumonia and should raise awareness of ventilator associated pneumonia, its prevention and lead to the application of interventions in practice, thereby reducing the incidence of ventilator associated.

**Aim:** This thesis aims to map the course of nurses' education in prevention of ventilator associated pneumonia.

**Methodology:** The data collection was quantitative using a questionnaire, and data were collected across the Czech Republic as part of a planned national survey on the prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia in the Czech Republic. The questionnaire was intended primarily for intensive care unit nurses. The questionnaire included questions not only on education but also on interventions and incidence of ventilator associated pneumonia, as other students benefited from the results of the questionnaire. The whole research was conducted under the auspices of the Czech Association of Nurses Section of Anaesthesiology, Resuscitation and Intensive Care.

**Results:** The results of the questionnaire show that in most intensive care units, staff are educated in ventilator-associated pneumonia prevention. The education takes place either once every certain period of time (most often once every one or two years). Most often the educator is an experienced health care professional from the ward education can take place within the adaptation process and outside the ward. The education is both theoretical through lectures or discussion and practical through practicing airway suctioning, oral care or checking the pressure in the obturator cuff. In some wards, education in ventilator-associated pneumonia prevention does not occur. Here there is room for improvement by introducing an appropriate educational programme.

**Conclusion:** In most intensive care units across the Czech Republic, education in the prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia is provided. However, there is no educational program that is used by most hospitals, so it is necessary/appropriate to create an educational standard to make ventilator pneumonia prevention education more comprehensive.