

Pain has a strong impact on quality of life. Even nowadays, in Czech Republic pain is underestimated both by sanitarians and patients. In consequence of this depreciation, only marginal pain treatment applies and the means are not always appropriate.

Progress in medicine goes forward all the time. We are finding new solutions for formerly insolvable problems. Despite of that, quality of life in 21.century is significantly influenced by pain and even these days people are dying in pain, which we are unable to abolish completely. In health care we witness pain more often then anywhere else. That is the reason for this work to focus on matters of pain and its treatment.

The aim of this thesis is to investigate handling pain at the Intensive Care Units.

I focused on departments of anesthesiology and intensive care, where most often are unconscious people who cannot express the pain verbally. I tried to observe if nurses are familiar with signs of pain, whether they are able to assess the pain and which is the most common way of this assessment. Likewise I was interested in how the documentation aimed on pain is administered.

First part of the thesis clarifies the theory of pain, which is briefly described here. In the second part of the work there are results of the questionnaire. The questionnaire was targeted to the work of nurses, who are constantly in contact with patient during the whole work shift and who can observe patient's reactions and treatment. Result of the questionnaire shows that nurses are familiar with and assess the signs of patient's pain. Furthermore it confirms the hypothesis that there is pain documentation at majority of departments, although not always it is detached.