Introduction

Surgical airways are commonplace in acute care hospitals and are often seen as a routine part of care for critically ill patients. In the same way, many physicians view the care of tracheostomies as routine for the nurses and ancillary staff. But, many members of the hospital staff who see and care for patients with surgical airways have a knowledge deficit that can create reluctance to providing high level care to this patient population. For this reason there is a need for educational initiatives to close this knowledge gap on surgical airways.

Methods and Materials

Tracheotomy and Laryngectomy*, surgical ICU, medical ICU and surgical floor nurses at an academic tertiary care hospital were educated through an oral presentation given by a department of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery house officer. A pre-teaching assessment was given prior to the educational presentation followed by a post-teaching assessment given to the same nursing units 5 months later.

Results

Comparison of the responses from the pre-teaching assessment from each nursing unit were scored and compared to post-teaching responses with an increase of correct responses by 12% (p = 0.0326, CI -22.35 to -2.5292). Based on objective measure of knowledge as well as subjective self-assessment, the teaching increased knowledge about surgical airways amongst the nursing staff.

Conclusions

Educational initiatives, such as COOL, can significantly reduce the knowledge deficit of the nursing staff so that they can confidently care for patients with surgical airways and provide high level of care.

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References