

The effect of the ABCDE assessment method and an
educational session on nursing physical assessment in the
general ICU at Dr Sardjito Hospital, Special Region
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Eri Yanuar Akhmad Budi Sunaryo

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School Of Nursing
Faculty of Health Sciences
The University Of Adelaide

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Signed Statement

I certify that this thesis contains no material that has been accepted for any award of any other degree or diploma in any other university.

To the best of my knowledge, this thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

I give consent to this thesis being available for loan and photocopying, when deposited in the School of Nursing Library.

Eri Yanuar Akhmad Budi Sunaryo

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List of Abbreviations

ABCDE	Airway, breathing, circulation, disability, exposure
ABG	Arterial blood gas
ACCCN	Australian College of Critical Care Nurses
ATLS	Advanced Trauma Life Support
CINAHL	Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature
CNE	Continuing nursing education
CRT	Capillary refill time
CTD	Cognitive Test for Delirium
CVP	Central venous pressure
ECG	Electrocardiography
ETT	Endotracheal tube
GCS	Glasgow Coma Scale
HREC	Human Research Ethics Committee
HTT	Head-to-toe
ICDSC	Intensive Care Delirium Screening Checklist
ICU	Intensive care unit
IPPA	Inspection, palpation, percussion and auscultate
MHREC	Medical and Health Research Ethics Committee
MV	Mechanical ventilation
RASS	Richmond agitation–sedation scale
RIPPLES	Recognition in prior professional learning, experiences, and skills
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
US	United States
VAP	Ventilator-associated pneumonia

Abstract

Background: Nurses responsibility for physical assessment has changed greatly over the years. Traditionally nurses had very limited responsibility for physical assessment and patient assessment was not considered to be part of the nursing role. As nurses' roles have become more sophisticated, patient assessment skills have become essential (McKenna et al. 2011). There have been no studies regarding the effect of an education session on nursing physical assessment using the airway, breathing, circulation, disability, exposure and equipment (ABCDE) approach in intensive care unit (ICU) settings.

Methods: The research design for this study was quasi-experimental. The participants were all nurses working in the general ICU of Dr Sardjito Hospital in Special Region Yogyakarta, Indonesia ($n=24$). The intervention in this study was an education session regarding physical assessment utilising the ABCDE approach.

Results: Analysis of the effect of an education session on ABCDE physical assessment revealed that all dependent variables had $p < 0.05$ (airway and disability, $p = 0.001$; breathing, circulation, exposure and equipment aspects, $p < 0.0001$), which suggests that the education session had a significant effect on ABCDE physical assessment in the ICU.

Conclusions: Physical assessment with the ABCDE approach has been shown to provide a structured and systematic method in nursing physical assessment, and to influence nurses' actions regarding physical assessment in the ICU setting. This method also shows considerable promise and has the potential to contribute to improving the practice of assessment in various clinical settings.

Keywords: nursing, physical assessment, intensive care unit, ICU.