

CO76 - Observational Study Research, Audit & Feedback, Or Benchmarking (One Of Them Or All Together?)

Neonatal Pain In Intensive Care Units Of Portugal

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Aims: To analyze the potential of a research project about the epidemiology of painful procedures in neonates involving audit, feedback and benchmarking of current practices, to improve the quality of pain management in the neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) of Portugal.

Methods: As part of a Portuguese epidemiological observational bedside study of painful procedures and pain management interventions, additional data collection was conducted to characterize the participating units. Feedback of the results to each unit was given to the head nurses and clinical directors.

Results: 19 of 20 NICUs provided us knowledge to identify the gap between health care practices and national recommendations. The feedback of the results allowed stakeholders of each unit to identified clinical characteristics of infants such as low gestational age, low birthweight, high CRIB and SNAPP scores, which increased the risk of painful procedures and less analgesia. It also allowed stakeholders to identify internal weaknesses such as the absence of written specific protocols, low use of association between analgesic interventions, and to identify internal strengths such as institutional pain groups and education. The benchmarking has revealed itself as a way to find best practices and to review areas for development.

Conclusions: This study gave us vital evidence about our reality of painful procedures and pain management and how best to protect the neonates. The work undertaken can establish a national neonate pain benchmark contributing to improve the quality of care. Best practices can benefit from a concerted effort between observational research, feedback and benchmarking; all together.

Key words: Procedural pain, Observational study, Feedback, Benchmarking

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