Letter to the Editor

Comment on “Effectiveness of Physiotherapy for Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia”

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Received 14 May 2012; Accepted 22 May 2012

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Dear Editor

I read with interest the review from Hellweg [1]. However the findings of Ntoumenopoulos et al. [2] were in-accurately reported.

Ntoumenopoulos et al. [2] investigated the effect of chest physiotherapy in sixty adult patients intubated and mechanically ventilated for at least 48-hours. There were no differences in the duration of mechanical ventilation, length of stay in ICU or mortality. Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) as assessed by combined clinical assessment and the clinical pulmonary infection score (CPIS) occurred in 39% of the control group and 8% of the intervention group ($P = 0.02$). After adjustment was made by logistic regression for other important variables, chest physiotherapy was independently associated with a reduced occurrence of VAP ($P = 0.02$). Therefore, contrary to the conclusions by Hellweg [1] the work of Ntoumenopoulos et al. [2] provides preliminary evidence that chest physiotherapy in ventilated patients was independently associated with a reduction in VAP.

A randomised controlled trial by Pattanshetty and Gaude [3] reported that twice-daily chest physiotherapy was associated with a significant decrease in the clinical pulmonary infection scores (surrogate measure of VAP) and with a significant reduction in mortality. Blot et al. [4] therefore recommend the further investigation of chest physiotherapy for the prevention of VAP.

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References

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