

Research Award 2014

Dandelion: Danish Delirium Study on Neuro-intensive Care Patients

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Background. Several studies on delirium in medical and surgical ICUs have indicated that it increases mortality, length of stay as well as the risk of dementia symptoms after discharge. Only few studies have investigated delirium in the neuro-intensive care unit.

Aim. (1) To investigate the incidence, duration and type of delirium symptoms as assessed by the Intensive Care Delirium Screening Checklist in patients with acute acquired brain injury. (2) To measure the effect of a systematic intervention on delirium symptoms in patients with acute acquired brain injury.

Method. A baseline investigation will be conducted in order to establish an average prevalence, duration and type of delirium symptoms. A systematic Intervention protocol will be implemented. The Intervention elements consist of a sedation, sleep, mobilization and pain treatment regimen based. A follow up 6 month after discharge will be conducted measuring quality of life, dementia symptoms and cognitive functions

Progress: The study is now ready to "take off". All ethical approvals and preparation are in order. On Monday 17.th of August - we will start include patients for the baseline study (phase 1). This is the part of the study where the EfCCNa grant of the 4000 euro is used to pay a psychiatric team to assess patients for delirium with the diagnostic criteria DSM-V and ICD-10. From Monday the 17 August will I, together with my nurse ambassadors in the neuro-intensive care unit, assess included patients with the CAM-ICU and our Danish translation of the ICDSC. The assessments with CAM-ICU and I CDSC will be compared with the psychiatric assessments for validation. We aim to include 70 patients within the next 4 months.