



“CONSTRUCT AND EVALUATE POSTOPERATIVE CLINICAL PATHWAY FOR PATIENTS UNDERGOING NEUROLOGICAL SURGERIES”

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Abstract:

Introduction:

In terms of reducing health care resource, complication, length of stay clinical pathway have proven to be simple and effective by evaluating periodically¹. Majority of post craniotomy have complications due to prolonged hospital stay and mechanical ventilation². Thirty percent of patients among post craniotomy have at-least one neurological or medical complication³.

Objective of the study:

To compare the outcome among patients undergone craniotomy with clinical pathway and without the clinical pathway

Methodology

A quasi-experimental design is used in this study with quantitative approach, study is conducted in a selected hospital of Navi Mumbai, included all the patients undergoing craniotomy surgeries and are available during study. 60 samples selected for the study, clinical care pathway was implemented on prospective group(n=30) and not implemented on retrospective group(n=30). Outcome is compared among both the groups.

Results: Analysis and comparison done using in comparison of retrospective (without clinical pathway, n=30) and prospective (with clinical pathway, n=30) using independent t-test. Prospectively there was reduction in length of stay (p=0.008) and duration of definitive airway (p=0.044). Medical complications, Surgical site infection (p=0.043) and pulmonary complication (p=0.016) has significant difference and Neurological complication shows no different, other complications (p=0.022) like bedsore, CLABSI, CAUTI and sepsis was decreased. Readmission(p=0.043) was also significantly reduced in prospective.

Conclusion: Patients outcome after implementation of clinical pathway shows reduction in length of stay, complication, and readmission this will benefit the hospital, patient and staffs. Nursing staffs will gain the knowledge regarding care of post craniotomy patient in critical care unit through this study. Only few parameters were analysed in the study.

Index Terms - Clinical care pathway, Neurology surgery, Post craniotomy, Complications of craniotomy

INTRODUCTION

Craniotomy is a neurosurgical procedure done within the intracranial space⁴. Care pathways now used in many health care settings with positive outcomes⁵. The clinical care pathway (CCP) shortens the duration of the treatment process with faster diagnosis also had a decreased rate of surgical complications⁶.

Need of the study: Post craniotomy complications due to prolonged stay in hospital include brain edema, convulsions, post-operative hemorrhages, and surgical site infection.¹⁰ This clinical care pathway will reduce the complication, decrease length of stay and also reduce readmission.

1.2 Population

Target population

All patients undergoing craniotomy surgery in various hospital of Navi Mumbai.

Accessible population

All patients undergoing craniotomy surgery and available during the study in a selected teaching hospital of Navi Mumbai.

Sample: The sample comprises of all the patient undergoing craniotomy surgery during the period of data collection.

Sample size: The calculated sample size is 60 (30 as experimental group for implementing clinical care pathway and 30 as control group without implementing care pathway).

DATA COLLECTION

In this study non-probability, purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample based on inclusion and exclusion criteria.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Quasi experimental design was adopted using quantitative approach to implement a clinical care pathway and observe the outcome among prospective and retrospective group. Using rater inter-rater reliability of tool was done and implemented on 30 samples prospectively. Retrospective data was collected from medical record department. The outcome of prospective and retrospective is done by outcome checklist.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Comparison of Prospective and retrospective data based on length of ICU stay and duration of definitive airway

Parameters	Prospective		Retrospective		t-test	df	p	Significance
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD				
Length of stay in ICU	13.6	895.2	17.4	1213.2	2.44.9	58	0.0088	S
Duration of definitive airway	13.2	938.8	15.9	1190.7	1.725	58	0.0448	S

Table 1 shows that the mean length of ICU stay is 13.6 and 17.4 on prospective and retrospective data. The prospective group by using clinical care pathway demonstrated shorter length of stay ($p = <0.05$).

2. Analysis of post craniotomy patients based on general medical complications in retrospective and prospective.

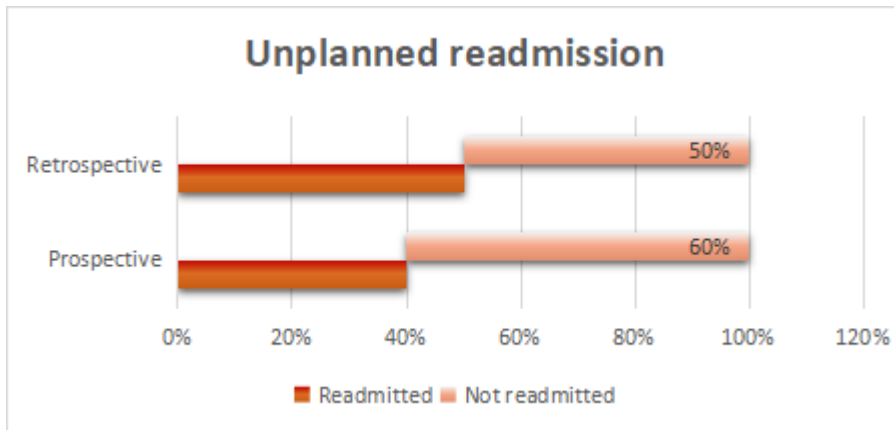
General complication	Prospective		Retrospective		Independent		
	n	%	n	%	t -test	p	Significance
PONV							
Yes (Present)	2	6.70	2	6.70			
No (Absent)	28	93.30	28	93.30	0	1	NS
Change in MAP							
Yes (Present)	18	60	16	53.30			
No (Absent)	12	40	14	46.70	-1	0.3255	NS
DVT							
Yes (Present)	5	16.70	8	26.70			
No (Absent)	25	83.30	22	73.30	1.795	0.083	NS
SSI							
Yes (Present)	7	23.30	10	33.30			
No (Absent)	23	76.70	20	66.70	2.112	0.0434	S
Pulmonary complication							
Yes (Present)	20	66.70	25	83.30			
No (Absent)	10	33.30	5	16.70	2.69	0.0116	S

PONV complication is equal in both the group ($p=1$, NS), Changes in MAP has no significant difference among the groups ($p= 0.3255 > 0.05$; NS), DVT complication also shows no significant differences. There is significant difference in SSI ($p=0.04$).

2. Analysis of post craniotomy patients based on neurological complications and readmission in retrospective and prospective.

Neurological complications	Prospective		Retrospective		Independent		
	n	%	n	%	t -test	p	Significance
Seizure					-1	0.3255	NS
Yes (Present)	7	23.30	6	20			
No (Absent)	23	76.70	24	80			
CSF leakage					1	0.3255	NS
Yes (Present)	4	13.30	5	16.60			
No (Absent)	26	86.70	25	83.40			
CN dysfunction					1.795	0.8307	NS
Yes (Present)	21	70	23	76.70			
No (Absent)	9	30	7	23.30			
Hemorrhage					1.4392	0.1679	NS
Yes (Present)	4	13.30	6	20			
No (Absent)	26	86.70	24	80			
Hydrocephalus					-1.4392	0.1607	NS
Yes (Present)	2	6.70	4	13.30			
No (Absent)	28	93.30	26	86.70			
Brain herniation / Brain edema					-1.4392	0.1607	NS
Yes (Present)	3	10	1	3.33			
No (Absent)	27	90	29	96.70			
Re-operation within 48 hours					-1	0.325	NS
Yes (Present)	2	6.70	1	3.33			
No (Absent)	30	93.30	29	96.70			
Other complications					2.4083	0.0226	S
Yes (Present)	22	73.30	26	86.70			
No (Absent)	8	26.70	4	13.30			

There is no significant difference in seizure ($p=0.32$), CSF leakage ($p=0.3255$), CN dysfunction ($p=0.83$), hemorrhage ($p=0.167$), Hydrocephalus ($p=0.16$), brain herniation ($p=0.16$), and Re-operation ($p=0.325$). There is significant difference in other complications (like bed sore, urinary tract infection, CLABSI, CAUTI and sepsis) [$p=0.022$] and readmission ($p=0.04$).

Graph 1. Comparison of unplanned readmission among retrospective and prospective group.

40% among prospective and 60 % among retrospective patients got readmitted.

There is significant difference in length of stay, few complications and unplanned readmission within 30 days.

DISSCUSSION

In a study out of 89 patients, complications (infection 15.7%, hydrocephalus 7.9% and subdural effusion 11.2%) developed in 34.8% of patients. After implementing the care pathway it is observed that there is reduction in returning to OT and infection by 12.1%. Length of stay ($p=0.008$) also reduced after implementing clinical pathway as in another study mean of 8.1 day reduced to 7.3 days after care pathway implementation.

The objective of this study is to reduce the complications, length of stay in intensive care unit and readmission within 30 days' official ethical permission was granted by the authorities. There are many studies which is conducted on development of clinical care pathway for other neurosurgeries but there is no research done exclusively for post craniotomy patients to reduce complications, length of stay and readmission.

CONCLUSION

Clinical pathways should also be designed, implemented, and assessed using validated methodologies, such as best practice standards, according to the research. Many health-care organizations throughout the world have implemented clinical pathways with the goal of improving medical quality. The clinical pathway will be incorporated into a variety of systems that will provide a broader range of support (e.g., at-home care and a mobile hospital), significantly improving medical quality. Clinical pathways benefit hospital systems by decreasing variation in care and providing efficiency-boosting guidelines. Despite the fact that the primary goal of pathways should be to improve patient

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