Obstructive
Experience of Patients with Acute Respiratory Failure in Receiving Noninvasive Positive-Pressure Ventilation

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Abstract: This qualitative research aimed to explore the experience of patients with acute respiratory failure in receiving non-invasive positive-pressure ventilation (NPPV). The participants consisted of 20 inpatients receiving treatment of NPPV for 48 hours or more at Department of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital. The data were collected during August 2009 to January 2010 using interviews, observations, and field notes, and then, were analyzed using a content analysis method. The results were presented into two main parts: patients’ experience with the NPPV and their management with uncomforted symptoms after receiving NPPV. Patients perceived and defined NPPV in three perspectives, namely a respiration-support device, a life-saving device, and a device improving the functions of the lungs and bronchus. In addition, the patients felt that NPPV eased breathing, reduced exhaustion, and alleviated other symptoms resulting from their illnesses. On the other hand, they experienced some negative effects of NPPV. For instance, they were anxious when using the device for the first time due to their unfamiliarity with machine use and breathing discomfort. Also, after a longer period of use, they suffered pain in their face and feelings of discomfort because of the pressure of the device and the air leakage from the mask, respectively. As a result, they could not communicate normally, leading to feelings of annoyance and irritation. To manage with these problems, the patients tried to synchronize their breathing with the device and lessened the feelings of discomfort by helping themselves and seeking help from the medical team. Findings on experience in receiving NPPV enable the healthcare team to understand the patients and serve as information for planning nursing activities to alleviate the discomfort caused by NPPV, and to help the patients adjust to the use of NPPV.

Keywords: Acute respiratory failure, Experience of patients, Non-invasive positive-pressure ventilation

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