

Respiclean ®

The importance of oral care in the critical environment is well-documented.¹

- 63% of patients admitted to an ICU have oral colonization with pathogens associated with VAP.²
- The absence of adequate salivary flow in intubated ICU patients causes severe xerostomia (dry mouth), which may contribute to the development of mucositis (oral tissue inflammation) and oropharyngeal colonization with gram negative bacteria.³
- If an intubated patient does not receive effective and comprehensive oral hygiene, bacterial plaque develops on teeth within 48 hours.⁴
- As dental plaque increases, so does the risk of pneumonia.⁵
- Comprehensive oral hygiene has consistently been recognized as an important step in patient care by such leading organizations as:
 - **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** ⁶
 - **Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)**
 - **American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN)** ⁸
 - **Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)** ⁹

Clinical References :

- Fitch J. Oral Care in the ICU. American Journal of Critical Care 1999 Sept; Vol. 8 No. 5; 324-318.
- Cason CL et al: Nurses' implementation of guidelines for VAP from CDC, AM J Crit Care. 2007 Jan; 16(1).
- Dennesen, P, et. al. Inadequate salivary flow and poor oral mucosal status in intubated intensive care unit patients, Crit Care Med 2003 Vol. 31, No. 3
- Bagg, J. et al, Essentials for Microbiology, Chapter 21, Oxford University Press, 1999
- Berry, A et al. Oral hygiene as a critical nursing activity in the intensive care unit. Intensive and Critical Care Nursing (2006) 22, 318-328.
- CDC. Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Pneumonia, 2003. Recommendations of the CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. MMWR 2004; 53 (No. RR-3)
- APIC. Preventing Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia 2004
- AACN News Vol. 23 No. 8 Aug 2006
- 5 Million Lives Campaign. Getting Started Kit: Prevent Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia How-to-Guide. Cambridge, MA: Crit Care Med 2003 Vol. 31, No.3