Abstract:

The importance of competence within technical and non technical skills-tracheotomized HMV users’ experiences.

Aims and objectives. The overall purpose of this study was to describe experiences of users totally dependent on home mechanical ventilation after tracheotomy and to identify factors associated with user satisfaction.

Background. HMV users are a small but increasing group in society and among the most vulnerable individuals with chronic illness. The participants in the present study require 24 hour ventilation through a tracheostomy. Their stories are important for the generation of new knowledge.

Method. Individual interviews with six participants were conducted and analysed by qualitative content analysis.

Results. Two main themes emerged: 1) The importance of competence and continuity. Subthemes: a) technical and nontechnical skills, ventilator knowledge b) continuity among the assistants. 2) Participation in decision-making. Subthemes: a) within treatment and care b) organising daily life. Some participants worried about their own safety. Continuity and competent care assistants were perceived as crucial for trust and confidence. Successful collaboration was perceived when the user was given the opportunity of participating in decision-making about her/his treatment and care, where to live and how to organise daily life. HMV users living at home were more satisfied with user participation than those living in caring homes.