

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.1051083
UDC: 615.22.035:616-005-083.98



Usage of cardiotonic drugs at the intensive care units

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Abstract

Background: Circulation insufficiency is one of the most common dysfunctions in the patients admitted to the intensive care units (ICU) [1]. These patients need an intravenous (IV) vasoactive drug administration to optimize or support cardiovascular system (CVS). Emergency situations, hard work conditions, difficult devices' usage and a lot of other specific factors of complex environment of ICU create favorable conditions for the occurrence of medical errors (ME).

Material and methods: Within this prospective study were examined the methods of administration and the types of the errors that were found during the administration of the following drugs: epinephrine, noradrenaline, dopamine and dobutamine. In the period of time May – September 2016, were examined 50 patients from ICUs from 4 different hospitals. The age limits were between 31-100 years old. The data collection was accomplished on the base of a questionnaire prepared beforehand.

Results: From all the number of examined patients, 33 (66%) were men and 17 (34%) – women. The body weight was indicated in the medical notes of 21 (42%) patients. To 15 (30%) of them was administrated the adrenaline, noradrenaline had the incidence in 15 patients (30%) and dopamine – 17 patients (34%).

Conclusions: Tracked dosage errors in 20% of cases, 4% of them were found at dilution administration of the drugs. The inscription of administered drug in medical notes was lacking in 2 uses.

Key words: cardiotonic medication, medication error, automatic syringe pump, dilution.