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The Alternative Communication With Critical Elderly Patients Hospitalized: Staff-patient-family Relationship

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ABSTRACT

Introduction:The Extended Alternative Communication \rightarrow (EAC) brings together other forms of communication, as well as oral language, such as use of gestures, sign language, facial expressions, use of alphabet boards or pictographic symbols, to the use of more sophisticated systems such as recorded or synthesized voice communicators and computers. The causes that make communication of elderly patients impossible through speech are the most diverse. This difficulty in oral language expression can compromise the relationship between the patient and the staff such as the patient and its family, resulting in frustrated, nervous, anxious, agitated and depressed patients. **Objetives:** Report the Alternative Extended Communication method and their contributions to the process of internalization of elderly patients unable to communicate through speech. **Methodology:** For this study, the database Pub Med was consulted such as selected review articles from the entrance of the terms: extended alternative communication, speech therapy, critical elderly patients. **Results and Discussion:** It was found that, patients admitted to the ICU experience a big potential traumatic experience and many develop serious emotional problems. These experiences come with a psychological suffering and which has a harmful effect on the overall rehabilitation of the patient. EAC is a clinical and educational practice where the speech therapist tries to compensate and to facilitate for losses and disabilities of the individuals with severe disturbances of expressive communication and / or comprehension disorders. It provides a significant gain for the team and the family with the understanding of what happens in terms of communication and consequently the reduction of anxiety and stress, avoiding frustrating situations for the patient. **Conclusion:** The theoretical aspects presented in this work, lead us to conclude that it is of utmost importance to the implementation of a larger communication system and alternative critical elderly patients hospitalized, noting that long-term treatment would be more functional day by day along to the staff and family.

Keywords:

Expended Alternative Communication, the Speech Therapy, Elderly.

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