

# Oral hygiene for Peri-Operative Patients Minimizing Pathogenic Oropharynx Colonization

## Abstract

### Brief description

The purpose of the study is to examine the practice of oral hygiene on peri-operative patients in SDA (surgical admissions unit), to minimize progression from pathogenic oropharynx colonization to pulmonary colonization, prevent non-ventilator pneumonia (NV-HAP), Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) and promote patient comfort during this process.

### Introduction

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) recommends guidelines to reduce the incidence of pneumonia. The oral health care of the elderly patients is often overlooked. Early detection and prevention of aspiration pneumonia is the goal of care for these patients.

### Method

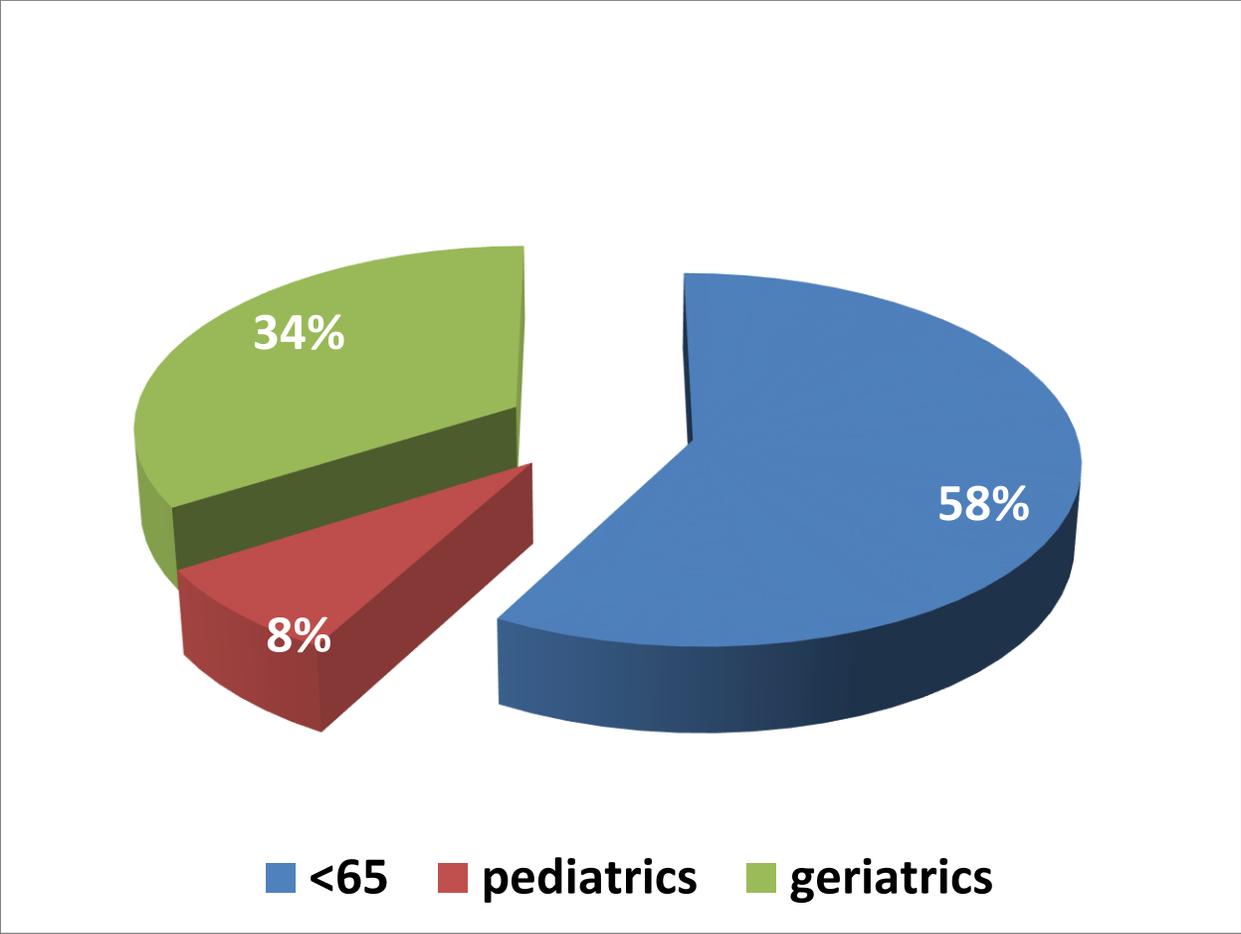
Upon admission, each patient had an oral care assessment and oral hygiene performed prior to surgery. Tool utilized was the SAGE®'s Oral Care Assessment scoring system. Patients discharged on the same day received a phone call evaluating their experience. The International Statistical Classification of diseases and related problems codes for pneumonia (ICD-9) will be used in long term to identify effect of this project.

### Results

During (October 2015- August 2016), 7306 patients had an oral assessment and oral care prior to surgery. (2,479) were geriatric patients. All patients had an oral assessment score of 5 (normal). 64 % of patients remained overnight. 36% patients were discharged the same day with a follow up call and 98% of patients expressed a positive experience. Infection control department is analyzing data to evaluate the effectiveness of this oral care initiative.

### Conclusion

NV-HAP and VAP are important concern with all our patients especially with our geriatric population. Based on the findings, there has been an increase awareness of the importance of oral hygiene by medical staff, patients and their families. Our expectation is to further evaluate these data over time to assess trends and patient outcomes post-op.



2,479 geriatric patients were seen in 11 months, during (October 2015- August 2016).