

# **ORIGINAL PAPER**

## VALIDATION OF NANDA INTERNATIONAL DIAGNOSES AT AN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

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## Abstract

*Aim:* The aim of the study was to conduct content validation of selected NANDA International diagnoses for an Interdisciplinary Intensive Care Unit (IICU), and to identify the degree of diagnostic significance of their selected defining characteristics and relevant or risk factors. *Design:* Descriptive study. *Methods:* The set of NANDA International diagnoses and selected characteristics for validation was compiled using the following methods: 1) Content analysis of a form for planning nursing care at the IICU, Nový Jičín Hospital; 2) Literature search and selection of diagnoses from the studies found; and 3) Consensus between two experts. Subsequently, 32 nursing diagnoses with 100 defining characteristics, 72 related factors and 73 risk factors were included in the study (i.e., a total of 245 characteristic signs). The sample of clinical experts conducting the validation consisted of 17 general nurses from the participating department. Fehring's Diagnostic Content Validation (DCV) tool was used. *Results:* Total DCV score > 0.6 was identified in 16 nursing diagnoses, while values below 0.6 were calculated for the same number of validated diagnoses. The number of major characteristics of nursing diagnoses were considered diagnostically insignificant (DCV < 0.5). *Conclusion:* On the basis of the validation study results, 16 nursing NANDA International diagnoses with 102 valid diagnostic characteristics were recommended for nursing diagnostics in lucid adult patients at the IICU, Nový Jičín Hospital.

Keywords: adult patient, content validation, DCV model, intensive care, NANDA International, nursing diagnosis.

#### Introduction

The verification of selected components of the comprehensive classification of NANDA International nursing diagnostics before they are implemented in practice in a particular workplace is one of the fundamental principles of how this diagnostic system should be used. This is due to the fact that patients, whose deviations from functionality are described in nursing diagnostics, are influenced by their specific condition, type of healthcare, age, and many other factors. The aim of the study was to create a set of valid diagnoses with NANDA International characteristics for lucid adult patients at the Interdisciplinary Intensive Care Unit (IICU), Nový Jičín Hospital. The validity of nursing diagnoses and their characteristics has been the subject of many Czech and international studies. Since 2000, dozens of validation studies have been published in periodicals such as the Central European Journal of Nursing and Midwifery, the International Journal of Nursing

Knowledge, the International Journal of Nursing Terminologies and Classifications, the Journal of Advanced Nursing, and Kontakt. Collectives of authors in Brazil, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Japan, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, and the U.S. have carried out research with the aim of verifying the validity of Validation diagnoses. of NANDA nursing International nursing diagnoses has been conducted in the context of various departments and is detailed by authors of 76 studies (the search was carried out in seven databases for 1/2000-6/2018). It has been conducted in standard, intensive, long-term, outpatient care in midwifery and neonatology departments. The most frequently used validation tools are the two Fehring models: the Diagnostic Content Validity (DCV) model, and the Clinical Diagnostic Validity (CDV) model (Fehring, 1987). The following six expert teams have researched suitable nursing diagnoses for adult ICU patients: Lucena and de Barros (2006), de Carvalho et al. (2008), Salgado and Chianca (2011), Castellan et al. (2016), Ferreira et al. (2016) and Cabral et al. (2017).

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## Aim

The objective of the study was to conduct an extensive content validation of selected NANDA International diagnoses for lucid adult inpatients at the IICU, Nový Jičín Hospital, including definition of the degree of diagnostic significance of the selected sample of defining characteristics (hereinafter "DC"), related factors (hereinafter "RF"), and risk factors (hereinafter "RiF").

## Methods

## Design

Descriptive study.

## Sample

Since the objective of the study was to verify the validity of selected NANDA International diagnostic components for the needs of a particular nursing team, the criteria for selecting experts in the Czech and Slovak Republics (Zeleníková et al., 2010) were slightly loosened. Both fundamental criteria, i.e., a) education in nursing, and b) defined minimum of clinical experience were substantiated for all 17 participating assessors. Twelve nurses were graduates of secondary medical school/vocational medical college, five nurses had a Bachelor's degree, none had a Master's degree. All assessors met the criterion of at least one year of clinical work experience at the relevant department (i.e., an adult intensive care unit). Ten nurses had more than 10 years of experience, six nurses 5-10 years, and one assessor had 1-5 years. The first of the secondary criteria: specialization in anaesthesiology and intensive care (relevant to the validation study), was met by eight assessors. A further two secondary criteria: a) diploma thesis, PhD thesis, or dissertation related to nursing diagnostics; and b) an article published in an expert periodical, were not met by any of the assessors. Marking of the experts ranged between 3 and 7 points (7 pts - one

Table 1	Protocol	for da	ta collection	– part
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nurse; 6 pts – six nurses; 5 pts – one nurse; 4 pts – six
nurses and 3 pts – three nurses).

#### Data collection

Data were collected using a protocol prepared in accordance with DCV model methodology (Fehring, 1987), the concept of which is shown in Table 1. Before data collection, all assessors received instruction on the correct way to complete the form, and were made aware of the importance of completing the form responsibly. Data collection was conducted with the consent of the management of the department, from 1 December to 21 December, 2017.

## Set of diagnoses for validation

We applied the following methods for the creation of the set of NANDA International nursing diagnoses for validation: 1) Content analysis of a form for planning nursing care at the participating department; 2) Literature search; 3) File creation of nursing diagnoses for validation (selection from studies on nursing diagnoses occurring in adult intensive care); and 4) Consensus between two experts.

#### 1) Content Analysis of the IICU Form for Nursing Care Planning

The authors of the study performed an independent assessment of the following three phenomena: 1) Name of the nursing problem (17 results, four in accordance with NANDA International); 2) Characteristics of nursing diagnoses (27 results, two in accordance with NANDA International); and 3) International numeric code (no result for any nursing diagnoses). The accord of the names of nursing diagnoses with the formulation of characteristics was considered in the context of the NANDA International 2015–2017 classification (Herdman, Kamitsuru, 2014). All authors used these outputs when proposing the set of diagnoses to be validated (see Table 2).

CONSTIPATION 00011						
$DC^{1}$ – selected defining characteristics for the $IICU^{2}$	mark lowest	e IICU highest				
abdominal pain	1	2	3	4	5	
decrease in stool frequency	1	2	3	4	5	
distended abdomen	1	2	3	4	5	
vomiting	1	2	3	4	5	
$\mathbf{P}\mathbf{E}^3$ colored related factors for the UCU	marking diagnostic significance for the IICU					
$RF^{3}$ – selected related factors for the IICU	lowest	t	-		highest	
postsurgical bowel obstruction	1	2	3	4	5	
decrease in gastrointestinal motility	1	2	3	4	5	
pharmaceutical agent	1	2	3	4	5	

 ${}^{T}DC$  – defining characteristics;  ${}^{2}IICU$  – Interdisciplinary intensive care unit;  ${}^{3}RF$  – related factors

# 2) Literature Search and Selection of Diagnoses from the Studies

In order to obtain up-to-date information, two structured searches were conducted in MEDLINE databases (PubMed), CINAHL Plus with Full Text, and Wiley Online Library, and in OpenGrey, a multidisciplinary European database of grey literature. The authors also used the following online search engines: MedNar, Google Scholar, and Bibliographia medica Čechoslovaca – BMČ (MEDVIK interface). The first search was intended to find studies mentioning the occurrence of NANDA International diagnoses at intensive care units. The scoping question (Klugarová et al., 2015) was formulated following P-Co-Co format with the following wording: "Which nursing diagnoses occur in adult patients at intensive care units?" The primary passwords for P (Participant) were: adult patient (dospělý pacient); for Co (Concept): nursing diagnoses (ošetřovatelská diagnóza); and for Co (Context): intensive care unit (jednotka intenzivní péče). Primary passwords were extended by adding analogical terms and synonyms such as: P - adult, grown. mature (dospělý, zletilý, vyspělý); Co - nursing diagnos\*, nursing process, nursing (ošetřovatelská/é assessment diagnóza/y, ošetřovatelský proces, ošetřovatelské posouzení); and Co - ICU, emergency, critical care, intensive care (JIP, intenzivní péče). The following limitations were applied: title, abstract, and English and Czech for the publication period 1/2000-8/2017. A total of 655 abstracts were found. After eliminating duplicate finds and irrelevant texts, we were left with six unabridged relevant studies.

The second search focused on obtaining validation studies conducted at intensive care units for adults. The following scoping question was formulated: *"Which studies present validation of nursing diagnoses in the context of adult intensive care?"*: P – nursing diagnosis (ošetřovatelská diagnóza); Co – validation (validace); Co – adult intensive care (intenzivní péče u dospělých); limited to English and Czech for the publication period of 1/2000–12/2018. A total of 46 abstracts were found. After eliminating duplicate finds and irrelevant texts, only one study with NANDA International diagnoses validation for adult ICU patients remained (Bocková, Marečková, Zapletalová, 2015).

# 3) Selection of nursing diagnoses from the studies

After examining the research articles found we prepared a set of 78 nursing diagnoses, 19 with occurrence frequency in adult patients exceeding 50%. Table 2 shows the set with the names of the nursing diagnoses and their codes.

# 4) Consensual agreement

The outputs of the content analysis of IICU documentation and proposal of diagnoses (see Table 2) were applied in the second validation study. The final set of 32 nursing diagnoses (Table 3) with their selected characteristics was compiled by consensual agreement between the authors of this study.

# Data analysis

Data were processed using the Diagnostic Content Validation (DCV) model published in Heart and Lung (Fehring, 1987). In accordance with the DCV method, the 245 characteristics indicated by the experts were given the following weighting on the Likert scale: 5 = 1; 4 = 0.75; 3 = 0.5; 2 = 0.25; and 1 = 0. For each characteristic (DC = defining characteristics, RF = related factors, RiF = risk factors) a weighted average was calculated, i.e., DCV score for the characteristics of nursing diagnoses are, according to Fehring, those whose DCV score is  $\geq 0.8$ ; DCV characteristics for minor values are 0.79 - 0.51; and for insignificant characteristics DCV  $\leq 0.50$ .

The value for total DCV score for each diagnosis was calculated, in accordance with Fehring (1987), by adding together DCV scores of characteristics with values > 0.5 (characteristics with lower DCV were excluded), and dividing the sum by the number of validated characteristics. The validity of a diagnosis as a whole was interpreted in accordance with Fehring (1986); thus, nursing diagnoses with total DCV score < 0.60 were excluded from the diagnostic set for the IICU. Statistic processing of the data was conducted using descriptive statistics (frequency tables, arithmetic average, standard deviation) in Stata v. 13.

# Results

The following section features an overview of significant results (comprehensive extensive data is shown in Tables 4 and 5). The total DCV scores for validated nursing diagnoses ranged between 0.30 and 0.76, with the highest values for Acute confusion 00128 (0.76) and Constipation 00011 (0.76). The lowest DCV total was for Anxiety 00146 (0.30). Values of total DCV score  $\geq 0.60$  (on which basis the diagnostic validity is determined) were documented for 16 nursing diagnoses, meaning they are valid for nursing diagnostics at the IICU. They include the following eight "current diagnoses" which are used as names of nursing problems in individuals with dysfunctional health patterns (Gordon, 1987). For Constipation 00011, assessors indicated decrease in stool frequency as a major DC (DCV score of 0.85); minor diagnostic significance was expressed for DC:

## Table 2 Provisional proposal of diagnoses for validation study 1

code	diagnosis	code	diagnosis	code	diagnosis
00004	Risk for infection <sup>1,2</sup>	00039	Risk for aspiration <sup>2</sup>	00134	Nausea <sup>1,2</sup>
00005	Risk for imbalanced body	00046	Impaired skin integrity <sup>1,2</sup>	00155	Risk for falls <sup>1,2</sup>
	temperature <sup>1,2</sup>	00085	Impaired physical	00173	Risk for acute confusion <sup>1,2</sup>
00011	Constipation <sup>1,2</sup>		mobility <sup>1,2</sup>	00196	Dysfunctional GIT
00013	Diarrhea <sup>1,2</sup>	00091	Impaired bed mobility <sup>2</sup>		motility <sup>1,2,3</sup>
00014	Bowel incontinence <sup>2</sup>	00102	Feeding self-care deficit <sup>1,2</sup>	00198	Disturbed sleep pattern <sup>1,2</sup>
00015	Risk for constipation <sup>2</sup>	00103	Impaired swallowing <sup>1,2</sup>	00201	Risk for ineffective cerebral
00020	Functional urinary	00108	Bathing self-care deficit <sup>1,2</sup>		tissue perfusion <sup>1</sup>
	incontinence <sup>1,2</sup>	00109	Dressing self-care deficit <sup>1,2</sup>	00206	Risk for bleeding <sup>2</sup>
00023	Urinary retention <sup>2</sup>			00213	Risk for vascular trauma <sup>1,2</sup>
00029	Decreased cardiac output <sup>2</sup>	00110	Toileting self-care deficit <sup>1,2</sup>	00240	Risk for decreased cardiac
00030	Impaired gas exchange <sup>1,2</sup>				output <sup>1,2</sup>
00032	Ineffective breathing	00125	Powerlessness <sup>1</sup>	00249	Risk for pressure ulcer <sup>2</sup>
	pattern <sup>1,2</sup>	00128	Acute confusion <sup>1,2</sup>	00254	Risk for perioperative
00033	Impaired spontaneous ventilation <sup>2</sup>	00132	Acute pain <sup>1,2</sup>		hypothermia <sup>2</sup>
Search	outputs and Provisional propos	al of diam	noses for validation study 2		
00001	Imbalanced nutrition:	00043	Ineffective protection	00150	Risk for suicide
50001	more than body requirements	00043	Impaired tissue integrity	00155	Risk for falls
	more than body requirements	00045	Impaired oral mucous	00155	Risk for acute confusion
00002	Imbalanced nutrition, less	000+5	membrane	00179	Risk for unstable blood
00002	than body requirements	00046		00177	glucose level
00004		00046	Impaired skin integrity	00105	•
00004	Risk for infection	00047	Risk for impaired skin	00195	Risk for electrolyte
00005	Risk for imbalanced body		integrity		imbalance
	temperature	00049	Decreased intracranial	00196	Dysfunctional GIT motility
00006	Hypothermia		adaptive capacity	00197	Risk for dysfunctional GIT
00007	Hyperthermia	00051	Impaired verbal		motility
00008	Ineffective thermoregulation		communication	00198	Disturbed sleep pattern
	C	00052	Impaired social interaction	00200	Risk for decreased cardiac
00011	Constipation		1		tissue perfusion
00013	Diarrhea	00054	Risk for loneliness	00201	Risk for ineffective cerebral
				00201	tissue perfusion
00015	Risk for constipation	00063	Dysfunctional family		
00016	Impaired urinary elimination		processes	00202	Risk for ineffective GIT
		00085	Impaired physical mobility		perfusion
00024	Ineffective cerebral tissue			00204	Ineffective peripheral tissue
	perfusion	00086	Risk for peripheral		perfusion
00025	Risk for imbalanced fluid		neurovascular dysfunction	00205	Risk for shock
	volume	00091	Impaired bed mobility	00206	Risk for bleeding
00026	Excess fluid volume	00093	Fatigue	00214	Impaired comfort
00027	Deficient fluid volume	00095	Insomnia	00219	Risk for dry eye
00027	Risk for deficient fluid	00103	Impaired swallowing		ctly formulated diagnoses (by
00020	volume	00103	Bathing self-care deficit	authors	
00029	Decreased cardiac output	00108	Toileting self-care deficit		ain/Chronic pain
		00110			onfusion/Risk for falls
00030	Impaired gas exchange		Unilateral neglect Acute confusion		
00031	Ineffective airway clearance	00128			ive breathing pattern/Ineffective
		00129	Chronic confusion		clearance
00032	Ineffective breathing pattern	00131	Impaired memory		d physical mobility /Impaired
00033	Impaired spontaneous	00132	Acute pain	bed mot	•
	ventilation	00133	Chronic pain	Deficier	nt/Excess fluid volume
00034	Dysfunctional ventilatory	00134	Nausea	Risk for	spontaneous ventilation *
	weaning response	00136	Grieving		changed respiratory function**
00035	Risk for injury	00136	Anxiety	1.1.510 1.01	geo respiratory ranetion
00033	Risk for aspiration	00146	Risk for relocation stress	Decross	ad cardiac tissue parfusion *
	-	00149			ed cardiac tissue perfusion *
00040	Risk for disuse syndrome		syndrome	KISK for	transmission of infection *

<sup>1</sup>first expert; <sup>2</sup>second expert; <sup>3</sup>GIT – gastrointestinal tract; \*(de Carvalho et al., 2008); \*\*(Lucena, de Barros, 2006)

code	diagnosis	code	diagnosis
00004	Risk for infection	00102	Feeding self-care deficit
00005	Risk for imbalanced body temperature	00103	Impaired swallowing
00007	Hyperthermia	00108	Bathing self-care deficit
00011	Constipation	00109	Dressing self-care deficit
00013	Diarrhea	00110	Toileting self-care deficit
00015	Risk for constipation	00128	Acute confusion
00026	Excess fluid volume	00132	Acute pain
00027	Deficient fluid volume	00134	Nausea
00030	Impaired gas exchange	00146	Anxiety
00031	Ineffective airway clearance	00155	Risk for falls
00032	Ineffective breathing pattern	00173	Risk acute confusion
00039	Risk for aspiration	00198	Disturbed sleep pattern
00040	Risk for disuse syndrome	00206	Risk for bleeding
00085	Impaired physical mobility	00240	Risk for decreased cardiac output
00086	Risk for peripheral neurovascular dysfunction	00249	Risk for pressure ulcer
00091	Impaired bed mobility	00254	Risk for perioperative hypothermia

Table 3 Final set of nursing NANDA International diagnoses for validation study

abdominal pain (0.66), distended abdomen (0.76), and vomiting (0.76). A major RF was postsurgical bowel obstruction (0.84); minor RFs were: decrease in gastrointestinal motility (0.72), and pharmaceutical agent (0.69); none of the validated characteristics of this diagnosis was assessed as insignificant. The major DC of Diarrhea 00013 was loose liquid stool >  $3 \times 24$ hours (0.84); minor DCs were: abdominal pain (0.66), cramps (0.65), and bowel urgency (0.56). No characteristic was assessed as a major RF; minor RFs included: infection (0.74), enteral feedings (0.78), and treatment (0.76); none was marked as insignificant. For Impaired gas exchange 00030, no validated DCs were marked as major; minor DCs included: abnormal arterial blood gases (0.78), abnormal breathing pattern (0.66), abnormal skin colour (0.75), cyanosis (0.69), somnolence (0.68), and dyspnoea (0.74). Major RFs included: alveolar-capillary membrane changes (0.82), and ventilation-perfusion imbalance (0.90); with no minor or insignificant RFs. The major DCs in Deficient fluid volume 00027 were: decrease in blood pressure (0.85), and decrease in urine output (0.82); minor DCs were: decrease in venous filling (0.54), dry skin (0.53), tachycardia (0.78), and dry mucous membranes (0.63). No major RF was classified; minor RFs were: compromised regulatory mechanisms (0.44). Acute confusion 00128 was represented by the following major DCs: restlessness (0.82), agitation (0.88), and alteration in level of consciousness (0.85); minor DCs were: alteration in psychomotor functioning (0.68), and hallucination (0.72). Major RFs were: delirium (0.88), and dementia (0.85); minor RFs were: age  $\geq$  60 let (0.59), and alteration in sleepwake cycle (0.56); no characteristic was marked as diagnostically insignificant. In Dressing self-care deficit 00109, no DC was marked as major; minor DCs included: musculoskeletal impairment (0.74),

neuromuscular impairment (0.69), environmental barrier (0.51), and pain (0.71). No RF was classified as major; minor RFs included: alteration in cognitive functioning (0.56), and weakness (0.57); with no diagnostically insignificant characteristics for the diagnosis. There were no major DCs for Hyperthermia 00007; minor DCs were: skin warm to touch (0.63), flushed skin (0.54), and vasodilatation (0.60). The RF set included no major characteristics; minor RFs were: dehydration (0.65), sepsis (0.78), and trauma (0.75); all the observed diagnoses characteristics were considered diagnostically secondary to various degrees. No major DC was identified for Ineffective airway clearance 00031; minor DCs were: alteration in respiratory rate (0.78), cyanosis (0.79), dyspnoea (0.74), excessive sputum (0.65) and restlessness (0.57); absence of cough (0.44) was assessed as diagnostically insignificant. A major RF was infection (0.81); minor RFs included: chronic obstructive pneumonia disease - COPD (0.71), exudate in the alveoli (0.57), neuromuscular impairment (0.68), and asthma (0.57).

Potential nursing diagnoses, commonly used for designating potentially dysfunctional needs (Gordon, 1987) also included eight NANDA International diagnoses. Risk for constipation 00015 had major RiFs: postsurgical bowel obstruction (0.84), and decrease in gastrointestinal motility (0.81); minor RiFs were: dehydration (0.63), tumour (0.65), and pharmaceutical agents (0.72); recent environmental change (0.46) was assessed as diagnostically insignificant. There were no major RiFs for Risk for peripheral neurovascular dysfunction 00086; minor RiFs were: mechanical compression (0.74).orthopaedic surgery (0.62), trauma (0.65), and vascular obstruction (0.54); experts marked none of the observed RiFs as diagnostically insignificant.

0.23

0.21

0.20

0.21 0.25

0.27

0.24

0.23

0.18

0.14

0.16

0.23

SD

0.20

0.27

0.18 0.22

0.23

0.21

0.24

0.24

0.26

0.20

SD

0.19

0.21

0.25

0.15

0.25

0.21

0.26

0.15

0.20

0.29

0.32

0.20

0.20

0.24

0.24

<b>1 able 4</b> Validation results		DCV			•			
INEFFECTIVE AIRWAY CLEARANCE 00031			IMPAIRED GAS EXCH total DCV score: 0.75			RISK FOR PRESSURE 00249 total DCV score: 0	.68	
total DCV <sup>1</sup> score: 0.63			$DCs^2$	DCV	$SD^3$	RiF <sup>4</sup>	DCV	SD
DCs	DCV	SD	abnormal arterial blood	0.78	0.25	Norton score $\leq 25$ p	0.65	0.2
alteration in respiratory	0.78	0.17	gases			decrease mobility	0.72	0.2
rate			abnormal skin colour	0.75	0.28	decrease in tissue	0.62	0.2
absence of cough	0.44	0.21	abnormal breathing	0.66	0.26	oxygenation		
cyanosis	0.79	0.22	pattern			dry skin	0.53	0.2
dyspnoea	0.74	0.21	cyanosis	0.69	0.29	extremes of age	0.65	0.2
excessive sputum	0.65	0.20	somnolence	0.68	0.28	extremes of weight	0.69	0.2
restlessness	0.57	0.21	dyspnoea	0.74	0.29	hip fracture	0.63	0.2
$RF^5$	DCV	SD	ŔF	DCV	SD	history of pressure ulcer	0.81	0.2
$COPD^{6}$	0.71	0.31	alveolar-capillary	0.82	0.26	shearing forces	0.85	0.1
exudate in the alveoli	0.57	0.29	membrane changes			inadequate nutrition	0.56	0.1
infection	0.81	0.19	ventilation-perfusion	0.90	0.18	pharmaceutical agents	0.71	0.1
neuromuscular	0.68	0.26	imbalance			physical immobilization	0.72	0.2
impairment			DIARRHOEA 00013			<b>RISK FOR CONSTIPAT</b>		
astĥma	0.57	0.23	total DCV score: 0.71			total DCV score: 0.73		
HYPERTHERMIA 00007			DCs	DCV	SD	RiF	DCV	SD
total DCV score: 0.66			abdominal pain	0.66	0.25	postsurgical bowel	0.84	0.2
DCs	DCV	SD	cramping	0.65	0.20	obstruction	0.04	0.2
skin warm to touch	0.63	0.20	loose liquid stools>3 in	0.84	0.20	dehydration	0.63	0.2
flushed skin	0.54	0.20	24 hours	0.0-	0.22	recent environmental	0.05	0.2
vasodilatation	0.60	0.28	bowel urgency	0.56	023	change	0.40	0.1
	<b>DCV</b>	5.25 SD	<i>RF</i>	0.30 DCV	5D	tumor	0.65	0.2
dehydration	0.65	0.23	infection	0.74	0.26	pharmaceutical agent	0.03	0.2
	0.03	0.23	enteral feedings	0.74	0.20	decreased in	0.72	0.2
sepsis trauma	0.78	0.20	treatment regimen	0.78	0.20	gastrointestinal motility	0.01	0.2
RISK FOR ASPIRATION		0.20	DEFICIENT FLUID VO		0.27	DRESSING SELF-CAR	e deen	CIT
total DCV score: 0.73	100039		00027, total DCV score: (			00109, total DCV score: (		
	DCU	CD			CD			сл
<b>RiF</b>		SD	DCs		<b>SD</b>	DCs		SD
decrease in GIT motility	0.71	0.27	decrease in blood	0.85	0.15	musculoskeletal	0.74	0.2
decrease in level of	0.82	0.21	pressure	0.54	0.00	impairment	0.00	0.0
consciousness	0.70	0.17	decreased in venous	0.54	0.22	neuromuscular	0.69	0.2
enteral feedings	0.78	0.17	filing			impairment		
presence oral/nasal tube	0.69	0.21	dry skin	0.53	0.28	environmental barrier	0.51	0.2
increase in gastric residual	0.63	0.20	decrease in urine output	0.82	0.17	pain	0.57	0.2
ACUTE CONFUSION 00	128,		dry mucous membranes	0.63	0.28	RF	DCV	SD
total DCV score: 0.76	DOU	CD	RF	DCV	<b>SD</b>	alteration in cognitive	0.56	0.1
DCs	DCV	SD 0.21	active fluid volume loss	0.68	0.21	functioning	0.57	0.0
restlessness	0.82	0.21	compromised regulatory	0.44	0.23	weakness	0.57	0.2
agitation	0.88	0.18	mechanism			RISK FOR INFECTION	00004	
alteration in level of	0.85	0.20	CONSTIPATION 00011,	,		total DCV score: 0.67		
consciousness			total DCV score: 0.76			RiF	DCV	SD
alteration in psychomotor	0.68	0.28	DCs	DCV	SD	exposure to disease	0.68	0.2
functioning			abdominal pain	0.66	0.23	outbreak		
hallucination	0.72	0.23	decreased in stool	0.85	0.22	invasive procedure	0.90	0.1
RF	DCV	SD	frequency			immunosuppression	0.54	0.2
age $\geq 60$ years	0.59	0.22	distended abdomen	0.76	0.22	leukopenia	0.56	0.2
alteration in sleep-wake	0.56	0.27	vomiting	0.78	0.28	<b>RISK FOR BLEEDING</b>	00206	
cycle			RF	DCV	SD	total DCV score: 0.68		
delirium	0.88	0.20	postsurgical bowel	0.84	0.22	RiF	DCV	SD
dementia	0.85	0.22	obstruction			gastrointestinal condition	0.69	0.2
RISK FOR PERIPHERA	Ĺ		decreased in	0.72	0.28	history of falls	0.59	0.1
NEUROVASCULLAR			gastrointestinal motility			treatment regimen	0.75	0.2
DYSFUNCTION 00086			pharmaceutical agent	0.69	0.26	aneurysm	0.63	0.2
total DCV score: 0.64			<b>RISK FOR DECREASE</b>	D CARI	DIAC	impaired liver function	0.60	0.3
RiF	DCV	SD	<b>OUTPUT 00240</b>			trauma	0.78	0.2
mechanical compression	0.74	0.26	total DCV score: 0.73			RISK FOR DISUSE SYN		(E
orthopaedic surgery	0.62	0.24	RiF	DCV	SD	00040 total DCV score: 0		
trauma	0.65	0.23	altered stroke volume	0.63	0.25	RiF	DCV	SD
vascular obstruction	0.54	0.25	alteration in heart rate	0.79	0.18	prescribed immobility	0.71	0.2
			alteration in heart	0.76	0.19	pain	0.71	0.2
			rhythm			mechanical immobility	0.62	0.2
DOU Dimensio Content Validat	$2DC_{a}$	definin	a characteristics, <sup>3</sup> SD standard	Initations "	4D:E mini	fastom SDE uslated fastom 6CO	DD Cha	i.

0<u>.62</u> <sup>1</sup>DCV – Diagnostic Content Validation; <sup>2</sup>DCs – defining characteristics; <sup>3</sup>SD – standard deviation; <sup>4</sup>RiF – risk factor; <sup>5</sup>RF – related factor; <sup>6</sup>COPD – Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

## Table 5 Validation results – total DCV below 0.6 – excluded from the set for diagnostics in the IICU (first part)

Table 5 Validation results	– total	DCV t	below $0.6 - \text{excluded from}$	the set	for dia	ignostics in the IICU (firs	st part)		
<b>IMPAIRED SWALLOWI</b> total DCV <sup>1</sup> score: 0.41	NG 001	.03	FEEDING SELF-CARE DEFICIT 00102, total DCV score: 0.51			ANXIETY 00146 total DCV score: 0.30			
$DCs^2$	DCV	<b>SD</b> <sup>3</sup>	DCs	DCV	SD	DCs	DCV	SD	
gagging prior to	0.38	0.20	impaired ability to bring	0.79	0.20	fidgeting	0.35	0.23	
swallowing			food to the month			insomnia	0.57	0.25	
difficulty swallowing	0.71	0.22	impaired ability to open	0.47	0.23	restlessness	0.65	0.25	
epigastric pain	0.46	0.27	containers			irritability	0.56	0.24	
vomiting	0.94	0.11	impaired ability to	0.54	0.18	fear	0.47	0.21	
food refusal	0.62	0.25	prepare food	D CH	a b	worried	0.47	0.17	
heartburn	0.34	0.26	$RF^4$	DCV	SD	hand tremor	0.46	0.20	
alteration in head position	0.28	0.20	alteration in cognitive	0.56	0.21	increase in perspiration	0.51	0.21	
<b><i>RF</i></b> mechanical obstruction	<b>DCV</b> 0.82	<b>SD</b> 0.23	functioning	0.47	0.15	voice quivering	0.35 0.49	$0.18 \\ 0.19$	
laryngeal abnormality	0.82	0.23	fatigue musculoskeletal	0.47	0.15	nausea diarrhoea	0.49	0.19	
brain injury	0.79	0.20	impairment	0.70	0.17	exchange in	0.57	0.15	
trauma	0.60	0.20	neuromuscular	0.74	0.21	physiological function	0.57	0.25	
EXCESS FLUID VOLUM			impairment	0.71	0.21	RF	DCV	SD	
total DCV score: 0.36		-	pain	0.69	0.19	exposure to toxin	0.76	0.27	
DCs	DCV	SD	ACUTE PAIN 00132,			major change	0.47	0.25	
adventitious breathsounds	0.35	0.23	total DCV score: 0.54			stressors	0.53	0.21	
alteration in respiratory	0.60	0.22	DCs	DCV	SD	threat to current status	0.59	0.25	
pattern			appetite change	0.49	0.19	INEFFECTIVE BREAT	HING		
jugular vein distension	0.47	0.20	change in physiological	0.81	0.17	PATTERN 00032			
oedema	0.84	0.23	parameter	0.05	0.10	total DCV score: 0.54	DOU	(TD)	
anasarca	0.60	0.33	self-report of intensity	0.85	0.18	DCs	DCV	SD	
azotaemia	0.35	0.22	using standard. pain scale	0.62	0.00	abnormal breathing	0.75	0.22	
dyspnoea increase in CVP <sup>5</sup>	0.49 0.75	0.19 0.15	positioning to ease pain	0.63 0.32	0.28 0.25	pattern	0.75	0.22	
paroxysmal nocturnal	0.73	0.13	hopelessness facial expression of pain	0.52	0.23	dyspnoea decrease in vital capacity	0.75	0.22	
dyspnoea	0.49	0.22		0.02 DCV	0.28 SD	prolonged expiration	0.59	0.23	
intake exceeds output	0.79	0.20	physical injury agent	0.85	0.20	phase	0.55	0.20	
RF	DCV	5.20 SD	TOILETING SELF-CAR			*	0.50	0.23	
			00110. total DCV score: 0		UII	use of accessory muscles to breathe	0.30	0.25	
compromised regulatory mechanism	0.38	0.24	DCs	DCV	6D	RF	DCV	SD	
excessive fluid intake	0.74	0.24	it does not come to the	0.74	<b>SD</b> 0.21	<i>KF</i> musculoskeletal	<b>DCV</b> 0.75	3D 0.22	
IMPAIRED BED MOBIL			toilet	0.74	0.21	impairment	0.75	0.22	
total DCV score: 0.57		<b>071</b>	impaired ability to reach	0.57	0.28	neurological impairment	0.72	0.21	
DCs	DCV	SD	toilet	0.07	0.20	pain	0.72	0.17	
impaired ability to move	0.63	0.27	impaired ability to flush	0.43	0.30	obesity	0.59	0.22	
between sitting and supine			toilet			hypoventilation	0.47	0.23	
positions			RF	DCV	SD	syndrome			
impaired ability to run	0.65	0.23	decrease in motivation	0.41	0.23	<b>RISK FOR FALLS 0015</b>	5		
from side to side			alteration in cognitive	0.57	0.23	total DCV score: 0.59			
RF	DCV	SD	functioning			<i>RiF</i> <sup>6</sup>	DCV	SD	
physical deconditioning	0.43	0.19	impaired mobility	0.75	0.20	age $\geq 65$ years	0.69	0.19	
environmental barrier	0.68	0.25	pain	0.71	0.20	history of falls	0.74	0.29	
musculoskeletal impaired	0.62	0.25	RISK FOR ACUTE CON		N	use of assistive device	0.69	0.19	
neuromuscular impaired	0.60	0.23	00173, total DCV score: 0		CD	unfamiliar setting	0.51	0.22	
obesity	$0.57 \\ 0.82$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.28\\ 0.17\end{array}$	<i>RiF</i> age $\geq 60$ years	<b>DCV</b> 0.65	<b>SD</b> 0.25	use of restraints	$0.65 \\ 0.76$	0.24 0.19	
pain <b>RISK FOR PERIOPERA</b>		0.17	alteration in cognitive	0.03	0.23	pharmaceutical agent acute illness	0.59	0.19	
HYPOTHERMIA 00254			functioning	0.57	0.21	anaemia	0.39	0.20	
total DCV score: 0.38			alteration in sleep-wake	0.51	0.22	impaired mobility	0.66	0.21	
RiF	DCV	SD	cycle	0.01	0.22	postoperative recovery	0.72	0.20	
combined regional and	0.62	0.25	dementia	0.72	0.21	period		0	
general anaesthesia			impaired mobility	0.46	0.18	visual impairment	0.53	0.20	
$ASA^7$ score > 1	0.47	0.26	infection	0.66	0.22	*			
low body weight	0.53	0.26	pain	0.60	0.20				
diabetic neuropathy	0.50	0.22	sensory deprivation	0.63	0.23				
surgical procedure	0.75	0.22	substance abuse	0.65	0.27				
<sup>4</sup> DCV – Diagnostic Content Validati	on; <sup>2</sup> DCs ·	– defining	g characteristics; <sup>3</sup> SD – standard de	viation; <sup>4</sup> F	RF – relat	ed factor; °CVP – central venous p	oressure; °F	RiF	

 $^{-1}DCV - Diagnostic Content Validation; ^{2}DCs - defining characteristics; ^{3}SD - standard deviation; ^{4}RF - related factor; ^{5}CVP - central venous pressure; ^{6}RiF - risk factor; ^{7}ASA - American Society of Anaesthesiologists$ 

Table 5 Validation result	s – total	DCV t	below $0.6 - \text{excluded from}$	the set	for dia	agnostics in the IICU (see	cond par	t)	
DISTURBED SLEEP PA			NAUSEA 00134			BATHING SELF-CARE DEFICIT			
00198, total $DCV^1$ score:						00108, total DCV score: 0.58			
$DCs^2$	DCV	$SD^3$	DCs	DCV	SD	DCs	DCV	SD	
alteration in sleep pattern	0.54	0.35	gagging sensation	0.88	0.16	impaired ability to dry	0.71	0.27	
unintentional awakening	0.59	0.34	aversion toward food	0.54	0.27	body			
feeling unrested	0.43	0.32	increase in salivation	0.49	0.27	impaired ability to	0.62	0.22	
$RF^4$	DCV	SD	increase in swallowing	0.47	0.17	access bathroom			
disruption caused by	0.59	0.32	RF	DCV	SD	RF	DCV	SD	
sleep pattern			gastric distention	0.60	0.28	musculoskeletal	0.76	0.24	
environmental barrier	0.71	0.30	pancreatic disease	0.62	0.25	impairment			
immobilization	0.59	0.22	treatment regimen	0.85	0.18	pain	0.75	0.20	
insufficient privacy	0.54	0.24	exposure to toxin	0.62	0.25	weakness	0.65	0.20	
IMPAIRED PHYSICAL MOBILITY		ITY	<b>RÍSK FOR IMBALANCED BODY</b>			environmental barrier	0.40	0.15	
00085, total DCV score: 0.57			TEMPERATURE 00005						
DCs	DCV	SD	total DCV score: 0.59						
decrease in range of	0.66	0.22	RiF	DCV	SD				
motion			acute brain injury	0.74	0.30				
alteration in gait	0.47	0.21	insufficient supply of	0.37	0.20				
difficulty turning	0.57	0.26	subcutaneous fat						
exertional dyspnoea	0.59	0.28	dehydration						
RF	DCV	SD	dehydration	0.54	0.18				
malnutrition	0.54	0.16	sepsis	0.74	0.21				
contractures	0.60	0.25	extremes of age	0.54	0.22				
pain	0.79	0.24							
pharmaceutical agent	0.68	0.25							
prescribed movement	0.69	0.21							
restriction	-								
DCV Diagnostia Contant Valida	diam. 2DCa	datinin	a alama atamiation SCD atam dand d		DE mala	tad fastan			

Table 5 Validation results - total DCV below 0.6 - excluded from the set for diagnostics in the IICU (second part)

<sup>1</sup>DCV – Diagnostic Content Validation; <sup>2</sup>DCs – defining characteristics; <sup>3</sup>SD – standard deviation; <sup>4</sup>RF – related factor

Risk for disuse syndrome 00040 was not supported by any major RiFs; minor RiFs included: prescribed immobility (0.71), pain (0.71), and mechanical immobility (0.62). For Risk for pressure ulcers 00249, the following major RiFs were specified: history of pressure ulcer (0.81), and shearing forces (0.85); minor RiFs included: Norton score  $\leq 25$  p (0.65), decreased mobility (0.72), decrease in tissue oxygenation (0.62), dry skin (0.53), extremes of age (0.65), extremes of weight (0.69), hip fracture (0.63), inadequate nutrition (0.56), pharmaceutical agents (0.71), and physical immobilization (0.72); no RiF was diagnostically insignificant. Risk for infection 00004 can be identified by the major RiF invasive procedure (0.90); and by minor RiFs: exposure to disease outbreak (0.68), immunosuppression (0.54), and leukopenia (0.56). For confirmation of Risk for decreased cardiac output 00240 no major RiF was specified; minor RiFs were: altered stroke volume (0.63), alteration in heart rate (0.79), and alteration in heart rhythm (0.76); none of the observed RiFs was insignificant. There were no major diagnostic characteristics for Risk for bleeding 00206; minor RiFs were: gastrointestinal condition (0.69), history of falls (0.59), treatment regimen (0.75), aneurysm (0.63), impaired liver function (0.60), and trauma (0.78). A major diagnostic characteristic for Risk for aspiration 00039 was decrease in level of consciousness (0.82); minor RiFs were: decrease in

gastrointestinal motility (0.71), enteral feedings (0.78), presence of oral/nasal tube (0.69), and increase in gastric residual (0.63); there were no diagnostically insignificant characteristics.

Total DCV scores with value < 0.60 (diagnostically insignificant) were calculated for 16 NANDA International diagnoses: Impaired swallowing 00103 (total DCV score 0.41), Excess fluid volume 00026 (0.36), Impaired bed mobility 00091 (0.57), Disturbed sleep pattern 00198 (0.51), Impaired physical mobility 00085 (0.57), Ineffective breathing pattern 00032 (0.54), Nausea 00134 (0.52), Bathing self-care deficit 00108 (0.58), Toileting self-care deficit 00110 (0.48), Feeding self-care deficit 000102 (0.51), Acute pain 00132 (0.54), Anxiety 00146 (0.30), Risk for perioperative hypothermia 00254 (0.38), Risk for acute confusion 00173 (0.54), Risk for falls 00155 (0.59) and Risk for imbalanced body temperature 00005 (0.51). Specific results are shown in Table 5.

#### Discussion

On the basis of the search strategy presented above, we found only one study presenting validation of NANDA International diagnoses in adult intensive care patients. Therefore, the first part of the discussion is based on its results. The study by Bocková, Marečková, Zapletalová (2015), focuses on verification of the diagnostic validity of Ineffective breathing pattern 00032, and was conducted in the same type of department featured in our validation study. In addition, both studies apply identical procedures when processing and interpreting resulting values of DCV scores (see the methods above). In Bocková et al. (hereinafter Bocková) Ineffective breathing pattern 00032 with a total DCV of 0.63 remained in the set for nursing diagnostics, but this diagnosis was excluded in the IICU study due to its DCV of 0.54. The difference between total DCV values in the studies was only  $\pm$  0.09. Interestingly, while all the assessors (nurses) in Bocková's study held a Bachelor's degree, only 29% of assessors in the IICU study did so. Nevertheless, the difference in values for total DCVs was insignificant.

We can see a similar phenomenon in results of characteristic validation of the defining characteristics (DC) and relevant factors (RF) for Ineffective breathing pattern 00032. The values for DCV of DCs in our study ranged between 0.50 and 0.75, with RFs between 0.47 and 0.72; while Bocková's values for DCV of DCs were between 0.32 and 0.84, with RFs between 0.35 and 0.78. We are of the opinion that Bocková's set indicates greater interindividual differences between assessors using the Likert scale, and a tendency to award a lower degree of diagnostic significance to the assessed components. In Bocková's study, the category of major diagnostic components included the DC of dyspnoea with DCV of 0.84; while experts in the IICU assessed this characteristic as minor, with a DCV of 0.75; however, the difference in DCV was a mere  $\pm$  0.09 (the minimal DCV value for the category of major diagnostic characteristics is 0.80). Other DCs for Ineffective breathing pattern 00032 (IICU) validated in our study were: decrease in vital capacity (IICU DCV 0.59; Bocková DCV 0.55) and prolonged expiration phase (IICU DCV 0.53; Bocková DCV 0.53) - results without significant differences. A more distinct difference can be seen between results for the DC: use of accessory muscles to breathe, with a DCV of 0.74 in Bocková; contrasting with a DCV of 0.50 in IICU. When comparing validation results of the RF for Ineffective breathing pattern 00032 in the two studies, we note that none of the observed RFs was included in the category of major diagnostic components. This finding may point to an underestimation of the importance of relevant factors in nursing diagnostics and should be investigated further. Minor RFs in the two studies were: pain (IICU DCV 0.72, Bocková DCV 0.71), musculoskeletal impairment (IICU DCV 0.75, Bocková DCV 0.60), obesity (IICU DCV 0.59, Bocková 0.57), and neurological impairment (IICU DCV 0.72, Bocková DCV 0.49), classified by Bocková as diagnostically insignificant. In Bocková's study, validation was performed by 52 experts from

intensive care units, and anaesthesiology and resuscitation departments from five Czech hospitals that met criteria defined by Zeleníková et al. (2010) within a range of 4–8 points, all of whom had a Bachelor's degree in nursing. By contrast, the IICU study involved only 29% bachelor degree holders, and the set of assessors scored 3–7 points according to Zeleníková. Nevertheless, the differences in values for total DCVs and a number of other results were insignificant. The possible impact that nurses' education, its content and quality have on the assessment of the significance of nursing diagnostic components is an area that deserves further study.

The second part of the discussion is a commentary based on the output of validations performed at other types of department besides intensive care units. Using the scoping question: "Which studies present validation of nursing diagnoses in adults?" we obtained, after limiting search results to English and Czech texts for the publication period of 1/2000-12/2018 and after eliminating duplicate and irrelevant texts, the following eight relevant studies with content validation of NANDA International diagnoses: Oliveira, Chianca, Rassool (2008), Zeleníková et al. Vaněčková, Sollár, Vörösová (2012), (2011),Zeleníková, Žiaková (2012), Vörösová et al. (2012), Zeleníková et al. (2014), Pompeo, Rossi, Paiva (2014) and Santos, Almeida and Lucena (2016). It is worth pointing out that all the authors come from one of three countries: Brazil, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. We would like to point out that the method of expert selection (see Fehring's criteria, 1994, versus Zeleníková's modified criteria, 2010), method of calculating total DCV and minimal DCV of DC, and DCV of RF values for the purpose of classifying them as major diagnostic characteristics partially differ (see the methods of Fehring, 1986 versus Fehring, 1987).

In our study, we performed diagnostic validation of 32 NANDA International diagnoses. The eight texts mentioned above describe validation of the following six: Anxiety 00146, Acute pain 00132, Deficient fluid volume 00027, Acute confusion 00128, Nausea 00134 and Risk for pressure ulcers 00249. With respect to the limited extent of the article, we shall only discuss three of them dealing with validation of diagnoses identified by IICU experts as valid: Deficient fluid volume 00027, Acute confusion 00128, and Risk for pressure ulcers 00249. Zeleníková and Žiaková (2012) consider (as in our study) the nursing diagnosis Deficient fluid volume 00027 to belong in the group of diagnostically significant diagnoses. The total DCV of 0.71 in Zeleníková's study was higher than the DCV of 0.61 in IICU study. While the DCV values of the DCs in Zeleníková's study are 0.57 - 0.84, validation in the IICU shows a wider range of 0.44 - 0.85. The DC of decrease in urine output was assessed by both studies as diagnostically major (Zeleníková: DCV of 0.84; IICU: DCV of 0.82). The DC of dry mucous membranes was identified by Zeleníková as major, with a DCV of 0.81; whereas the IICU study ranked it as minor with a DCV of 0.63. We notice a similar difference for the DC of decrease in venous filling, for which Zeleníková gave a DCV of 0.76; and the IICU study gave a DCV of 0.54. Decrease in blood pressure was classified by both studies as a major DC, with DCVs of 0.75 and 0.85, respectively. We should point out that Zeleníková applied Fehring's method from 1986, with the minimum DCV value for major DCs being 0.75, which Fehring raised to 0.80 in 1987. The DC of dry skin was classified by both studies as diagnostically minor (Zeleníková 0.71; and IICU 0.53), similarly to tachycardia (Zeleníková 0.57, IICU 0.78). None of the two validations resulted in any insignificant DCs. No commentary on RF validation results is available in the study by Zeleníková, Žiaková (2012). Fehring (1987) recommends including validation results of the relevant factors when interpreting the validity of a nursing diagnosis as a whole. Validation of another nursing diagnosis -Acute confusion 00128 was addressed by Vörösová et al. (2012). She presents results of DCV scores for individual DCs, but not for the total DCV score. In the IICU study, this diagnosis, with total DCV of 0.76, was classified as diagnostically significant. The DCV of DC values in the study by Vörösová et al. ranged between 0.54 - 0.76. Therefore, they were slightly lower when compared with the values in our study (DC 0.68 - 0.88). In the group of major DCs, the authors included restlessness, with a DCV of 0.76 (IICU 0.82), and hallucination, with a DCV of 0.76 (IICU 0.72). Similarly, to Zeleníková and Žiaková (2012), Vörösová et al. (2012) used the minimum DCV value of 0.75 to classify DCs in the major diagnostic category (see Fehring, 1986). They ranked the following DCs as minor: agitation - DCV of 0.68 (IICU 0.88), alteration in level of consciousness -DCV of 0.61 (IICU 0.85), and alteration in psychomotor functioning – DCV of 0.62 (IICU 0.68). The study by Vörösová et al. (2012) did not classify any validated characteristics as insignificant DCs. The RF category cannot be compared with the results of the study at the IICU, as the study did not include such information. It is interesting to note that study by the Brazilian authors Santos, Almeida and Lucena (2016) focused on validation of Risk for pressure ulcers 00249. The text does not state a value for total DCV. When assessing the diagnostic validation in the IICU, we monitored twelve selected RiFs (see Table 4), while the Brazilian study monitored nineteen RiFs. Both validations applied a minimum DCV of 0.80 for

ranking RiFs as the major characteristic (see the stricter criterion, Fehring, 1987). DCV values for RiFs for this potential nursing diagnosis ranged in the Brazilian study between 0.54 and 0.97 (IICU 0.53 -0.85). Santos, Almeida and Lucena (2016) ranked a single characteristic in the category of major RiFs: physical immobility, with a DCV of 0.97 (IICU 0.72). The authors ranked the following RiFs as minor: decrease in tissue oxygenation – DCV of 0.74, (IICU 0.62), extremes of weight - DCV 0.70 (IICU 0.69), and extremes of age - DCV 0.67 (IICU 0.65). It is interesting to note that the team of experts led by Santos consisted of nurses specialized in the care of skin and wounds. The sample of assessors at the IICU consisted of nurses specialized in intensive care. There are numerous variables that can influence nursing diagnosis outputs, including cultural difference, healthcare system conditions, diagnostic erudition, the number of nurses with university degrees, their competences and the importance they attribute to nursing diagnostics, which is still endeavouring to establish its place in modern healthcare systems.

# Limitation of study

Limitations of the study may include the relatively low number of experts, and the issue of selection criteria. The objective of the study was to create a valid diagnostic set for nursing diagnostics, subsequently applied in the participating department. Thus, the sample of assessors included all nurses from the department despite the fact that they met only 82 % of the criteria defined by Zeleníková et al. (2010). Nevertheless, as the discussion suggests, they gave very similar assessments during the validation procedure to those of experts in other validation studies.

# Conclusion

To meet the major objective of the study we recommend including the following diagnoses in the set of nursing diagnostics for adults at the Interdisciplinary intensive care unit - IICU, Nový Jičín Hospital: Risk for infection 00004, Hyperthermia 00007, Constipation 00011, Diarrhoea 00013, Risk for constipation 00015, Deficient fluid volume 00027, Impaired gas exchange 00030, Ineffective airway clearance 00031, Risk for aspiration 00039, Risk for disuse syndrome 00040, Risk for peripheral neurovascular dysfunction 00086, Dressing self-care deficit 00109, Acute confusion 00128, Risk for bleeding 00206, Risk for decreased cardiac output 00240 and Risk for pressure ulcer 00249. On the basis of the results of the study, we recommend training the nursing team in specific diagnostic IICU characteristics of Ineffective breathing pattern 00032

and then repeating the content validation of the diagnosis. Following Fehring's (1994) recommendation, we propose continuous training of the relevant nursing team, including demonstration of how the characteristics of the nursing diagnoses can be identified in patients in clinical routine.

#### Ethical aspects and conflict of interest

When conducting the validation study, the authors adhered to ethical guidelines. The authors are not aware of any conflict of interests.

## Author contribution

The authors of the study declare, upon mutual consent, that they contributed to the manuscript equally: when preparing the concept and design (DŠ, JM), data analysis and interpretation (DŠ, JM), manuscript draft (DŠ, JM), critical review of the manuscript (DŠ, JM), and final completion of the article (DŠ, JM).

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