

VapCare supports secretion cleaning and maintaining oral hygiene of ventilated patients

By Dr. Bilqeesa Bhat

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), New Delhi, supported innovation VapCare developed by Coeo Labs, a division of InnAccel Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru, is an automated secretion clearance and oral hygiene management system for ICU patients on ventilators. It is a holistic system that clears secretions from three locations (oral, oropharyngeal, subglottic) and performs oral lavage to comprehensively reduce the risk of VAP in these patients.



The system comprises of a main control unit, a sensor unit, collection containers, lavage jar and disposable lumens. VapCare system eliminates the need for manual secretion clearance and oral hygiene management, saving ICU nurses' time, improving compliance to infection prevention protocols and minimizing chances of cross infection. Thus, VapCare reduces the risk of acquiring ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP), potentially saving thousands of lives. The VAP is one of the top causes of deaths due to hospital associated infections, leading to 2.5 lakh deaths in India annually. One of the major causes of VAP in India is the lack of compliance to manual oral hygiene protocols.

The technology has already a granted patent in India and China and applications for patent have been made in Europe, Japan and Brazil. VapCare has successfully completed 30-patient safety/efficacy trial and 30 plus hospital demonstrations.