

14 years' experience of a unit for technology-dependent children on ventilatory support

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A lengthy stay in a pediatric intensive care unit negatively affects a child's wellbeing and places a heavy strain on the patients and family. In order to minimize the side-effects, a Long-term Intensive Care unit(LIVA), a unit that is unique in northern Europe, was opened in 1990. The children admitted to LIVA are on supplementary ventilatory support from CPAP to mechanical ventilation. A home-like atmosphere and an early involvement of the family heightens the child's quality of life. A discharge plan is made soon after the admission in order to facilitate the transition from hospital to home care. Structured education and teaching programme is given to parents and home care providers, in the use of all necessary equipment and other aspects of therapy.

Diagnosis (n=90) No

Neuromuscular disorders 22

Congen. central hypoventilation syndrome 2

Upper airway disorders 32

Lower airway and pulmonary disorders 18

Cranio-facial malformations 4

Cerebral Palsy 7

Miscellaneous 5

85 children have been discharged. 18 children have died.

23 children have been decannulated. 47 technology-dependent children, are being cared for at home.

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