To Lift or Not to Lift: Studying the Benefits and Implementation of Mechanical Ceiling Lifts

Melanie J. Benner BSN, RN  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, melanie_j.benner@lvhn.org*

Rachelle Dambman BSN, RN  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network*

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To Lift or Not to Lift: Studying the Benefits and Implementation of Mechanical Ceiling Lifts

Melanie Benner, BSN, RN and Rachelle Dambman, BSN, RN
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

**BACKGROUND**
- Noticed an opportunity for improvement in ceiling lift utilization: staff on 6C not using lifts as often as recommended by network.
- High number of patient transfer related injuries to overall network staff (41 injuries in 2015 that could have possibly been prevented by using sling)
- Coworkers on unit directly affected by back injuries caused by patient movement
- General curiosity about correlation between sling use and patient’s skin integrity

**PICO QUESTION**
Does an educational brochure for licensed/unlicensed staff on 6C, regarding the advantages of ceiling lift use, increase the use of these lifts for patients meeting developed criteria?

P: Licensed/unlicensed staff on 6C (RN’s and TP’s in particular)
I: Educational program (via brochure and discussions at huddle)
C: Observation of ceiling lift compliance among patients meeting certain criteria (do they have a lift under them or not?)
O: Increase staff knowledge of health benefits related to ceiling lift use and, therefore, increase their use on 6C

**EVIDENCE**
- Evidence reviewed using keywords such as “mechanical lift” “musculoskeletal injuries” and “patient movement”
- Evidence reviewed and synthesized and the following conclusions were made:
  - Significant decrease of musculoskeletal injuries to staff who implemented mechanical lift use (Lee, Wolf, Evanoff, 2004)
  - 241% decrease in workers compensation in facilities using mechanical lifts (Alamgir, Yu, Fast, Hennessy, Yassi 2008)
  - Use of mechanical lifts created a 61% reduction in reported staff injuries (Wardell 2007)

**RESULTS**

**OUTCOMES**
- 1% increase in sling placement compliance in our population after education was completed. However, this finding is not statistically significant.
- Only 1 week of post-data was able to be collected. Therefore, a longer study might produce different findings.
- Another possibility is to narrow the criteria used to identify patients that may need slings
- A narrowing of the criteria to better capture a patient’s need for a mechanical lift, as well as additional education and a longer study may produce a more drastic increase in sling placement compliance.

**REFERENCES**

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