

High workload for ICU nurses may increase risk of organ failure for patients

June 3 2020

For patients admitted to the intensive care unit in a hospital in Finland, increased workload for nurses and understaffing of nurses were linked with a higher likelihood that patients would experience multiple organ failure. The findings are published in the *Journal of Advanced Nursing*.

The levels of nursing workload and understaffing were at their worst on weekends.

The results emphasize the need to ensure that intensive care units are adequately staffed based on patient needs.

"The burden for critical care services has risen exponentially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The consequences of increased nursing workload during COVID-19 remains uncertain and need to be investigated in this light," said corresponding author Miia Jansson, Ph.D., MHSc, RN, of the University of Oulu, in Finland.

More information: Miia Jansson et al, The proportion of understaffing and increased nursing workload are associated with multiple organ failure: A cross-sectional study, *Journal of Advanced Nursing* (2020). [DOI: 10.1111/jan.14410](https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.14410)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: High workload for ICU nurses may increase risk of organ failure for patients (2020, June 3) retrieved 26 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-06-high-workload-icu-nurses-failure.html>

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