

# Early recognition of potential clinical deterioration on the general ward.

Albert  
Schweitzer  
ziekenhuis



## A quantitative retrospective cohort study.

**Authors:** Jong, de X.P., Noorland, M.T., Rietveld, H.C., Rijm, J.J. en Visser R.

**Publication:** Potentieel vitaal bedreigde patiënt op de klinische afdeling.

**Publication date:** 01-02-2017.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the patient file research and the literature research can be concluded that the DENWIS is of added value to the current early warning system in the early identification of clinical deterioration of patients on the medical and surgical ward. This may result in the prevention of preventable adverse events due to unplanned ICU-admissions.

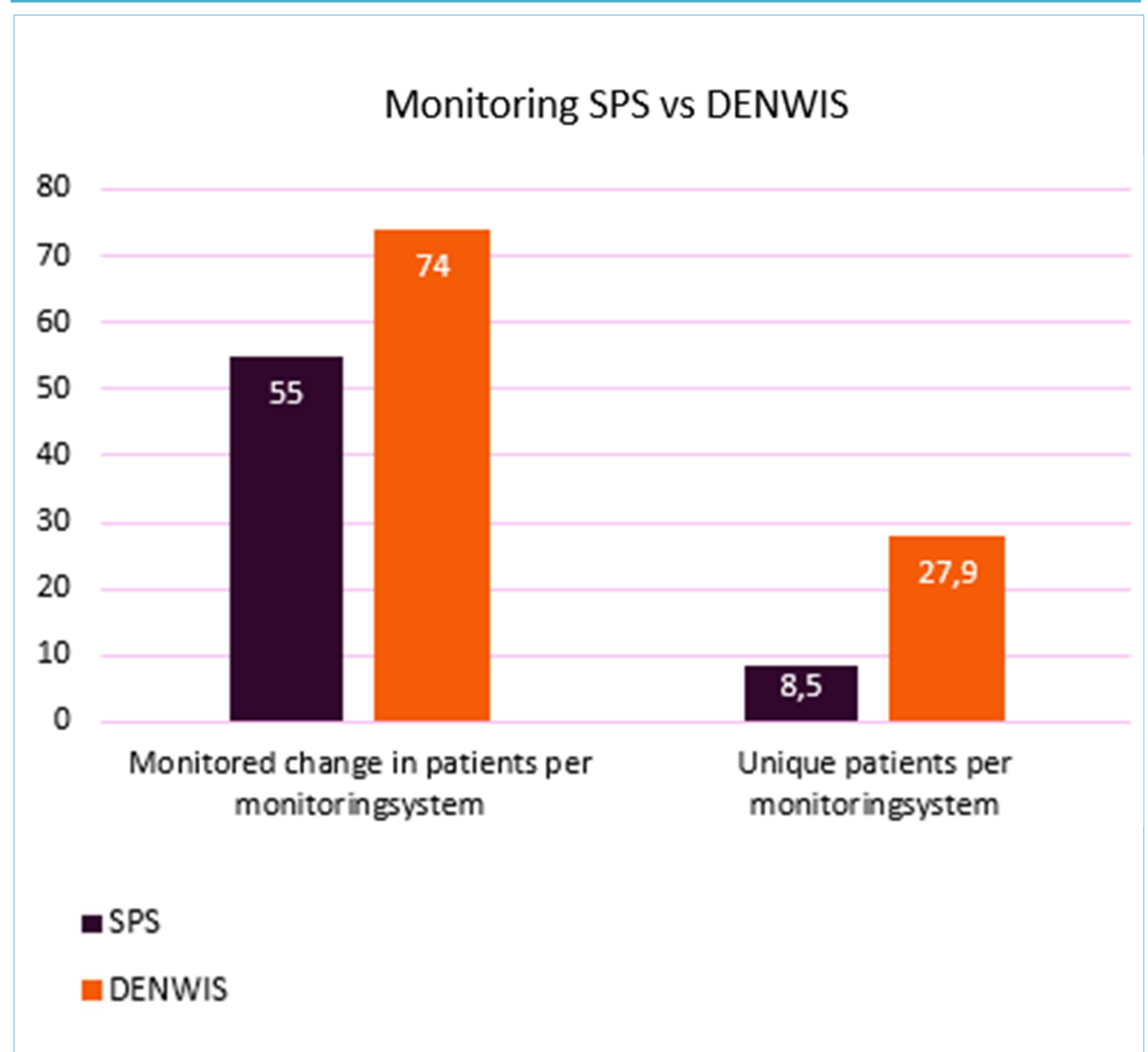
## BACKGROUND

- In 2015 175 patients deteriorated within 24 hours after admission to the general ward from the ER at the Albert Schweitzer hospital (ASz) Dordrecht.
- With these patients there was no knowledge of the start and course of early signs and symptoms, also the current early warning system (SPS) or the medical team didn't identify those deteriorating patients.
- In 2016 a new clinical assessment tool (DENWIS) has been developed, based on nurses underlying 'worries' about the patients condition. This tool could be an addition to the current rapid response system and may prevent preventable adverse events.
- The DENWIS (Dutch-Early-Nursing-Warning-Indicator-Score) is a tool with 10 subjective patient observations, which is predicting clinical deterioration.

## METHODS

- We started with a literature review to identify the early signs and symptoms of clinical deterioration and the background of the current EWS and the DENWIS.
- We included for the retrospective patient file research 175 adult patients whom clinically deteriorated fast after admission at the general ward.
- We compared the incidence of the scores SPS and DENWIS in those patients, based on the patient files.
- We examined the overlap and individual 'hits' in recognition clinical deterioration between both systems.

## RESULTS



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- We recommend the RRS-team to train the nurses of the general wards about the indicators of the nursing assessment tool DENWIS at the annual training.
- We recommend the client to initiate a qualitative follow-up study, to examined the nurses knowledge and skills of recognition and handling the deteriorating patient at the general wards. Perhaps this follow-up study shows that the DENWIS should be implemented in the current RRS.

**For more information see:**

