

“Assessment of the psychological and medical effects of the environmental factors colour and light on patients and staff in the department of intensive-care medicine”

Project partner:

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Location and extent of the study:

HELIOS University Hospital Wuppertal – clinic of intensive-care medicine

A) Surgical intensive care unit, house 2, 8 patient rooms, 15 beds

B) Nonsurgical (internistic/neurological) intensive care unit, house 5, 10 patient rooms, 20 beds

Period of the examination: 24 months (2017/18)

Research questions:

- 1) Which impact has the design of colour and light in intensive care units on the well-being and health status of the patients?
- 2) Which impact has the design of colour and light in intensive care units on the motivation to work, the demeanour, and the well-being of the medical as well as the nursing staff?
- 3) Which impact has the design of colour and light in intensive care units on the consumption of medication?

Summary of the results:

The effects of colour and lighting design, which have been observed in the scope of qualitative and quantitative research, are significant in terms of patients as well as staff. The survey of the patients as well as the interviews of the staff prior to and after the implemented measures of renovation provide evidence for the efficacy of the psychological environmental factors colour and light on the well-being and the satisfaction of the human.

The perception of the factors of design increased concerning the patients about averagely 32,3%, concerning the staff even about 40,8%. The highest increase occurred at the patients besides the evaluation of the colour design (62,7%) at the sensation of privacy, which improved by 55,2%.

At the staff, the highest increase was recorded likewise at the colour design of 75,6%, followed by the perceptible improvement of the quality of artificial lighting by 54,3%. This factor is all the more exceptional as the new illuminants were disregarded for financial reasons. The available neon illuminants were replaced by LED illuminants with an index of colour reproduction of 90, whereby the colour of the rooms seemed relatively natural. The colour temperature of the light was kept warm white (3.000 K) in the rooms of the patients and the staffrooms. On the corridors and the functional rooms, however, cold white resp. daylight white was used. The contrast generates a ‘shift of the atmosphere’, through which the staffrooms appear perceptibly cosier, warmer, and securer. Moreover, perceptions such as slow movement and calmness were described.

The effects of the factors of the room colour and light not only extent to the perception of the architectural room, but also to the welfare. The ‘wellness-atmosphere’ room impression of the staffrooms and patient rooms, titled by people concerned, provides a more effective care. The evaluation of the measures of care increased at the patients after the renovation by 28%. These indirect effects were also observed at the staff, whereby the satisfaction of work on average increased by 12%.

The consumption of medication could be reduced distinctly. At the benzodiazepines, no significant changes were observed. At the acute-neuroleptics (haloperidol, risperidone, chlorprothixene etc.), per-spicious changes occurred. In the reference period, the consumption decreased by averagely 30,1%.

Reason and target of the study:

Reason for the present study was the current scientific discussion within the scope of intensive-care medicine on the negative effects of a prolonged delirium on the morbidity and mortality of patients. Next to the treatment with pharmaceuticals, today, further influencing variables are increasingly looked for, which benefit the well-being and the recovery of patients and can prevent a delirium. In this correlation, the perception of the architectural room gets into focus, especially the atmospherical effects of clinical environments. Hitherto, there exist worldwide only a few studies which prove the influence of the architectural room on the well-being and the health status of humans¹. This gap in research applies to the entire range of medical institutions. Within the scope of intensive-care medicine, this issue operates particularly problematic as the clinical environment benefits negative emotions such as fear, panic, disorientation, loneliness, and depression. These effects can endanger life and health of patients. In this context, the effects of the architectural room on the well-being and the job satisfaction of the medical as well as the nursing staff have to be taken into account.

Framework of the study:

An opportunity for this study was offered on occasion of the approaching measures of renovation of the wards B3-EGI and B5-3I as well as B5-3IMC of the clinic in intensive-care medicine in the HELIOS University Hospital Wuppertal. The measures of renovation were limited to a new coat of painting of the walls, ceilings, and doors as well as the replacement of the entire illuminants. For financial reasons, it had to be refrained from the renovation of the floors, furnishings, and medical technology. The valuations of patients and staff were gathered quantitatively as well as qualitatively by questionnaires and interviews prior to and after the renovation. To minimise bias like the impression of novelty, the survey was conducted not until 3 months after the occupation of the renovated rooms. The consumption of medication was documented evaluated in a representative reference period of 9 months prior to and after the renovation. Evaluations of the state of disease of the staff as well as fluctuations at the shift of staff are supposed to take place at a later point in time. The entire measure was documented cinematically.

Differentiation:

In this study, we restricted to the investigation of the visual influencing variables colour and light. Other factors of perception such as acoustics (language, noises), scent (cleaning and disinfection solution, material), and taste (food, medication) were disregarded in this study, and yet should be subject of further examinations. The second emphasis of this investigation was formed by the effect of the architectural influencing variables colour and light on the well-being and the satisfaction of the medical and the nursing staff, whose influence on the health status of the patients is not to be disregarded. The severe skill shortage lends supplemental pertinence to this question. Both fundamental interrogations of this study not only pertain to the scope of intensive-care medicine, but also the entire medical institution.

Showroom and view:

The showroom was enhanced with biodynamic light, which enables a simulation of day and night such as the adaption of the atmospherical condition and counteracts to the status of delirium. The flooring was replaced by dissipative linoleum of one brown hue, which inserted harmonically to the concept of colour. Emotions such as safety, warmth, and secureness were specifically strengthened. The renewed medicine technology seems less menacing due to the hidden wiring. The rotation of the bed enables the patients to a direct view out of the window, which not only brings the sunlight into focus, but also the colours of the sky as well as the colours of the treetops, whereas the view was restricted to the ventilation elements at the ceiling before. In a complete redesign of the ward, significant increases of these results are to be expected, which should be investigated further.

¹ Richter, P. G. & Ragaller, M. (2003) Assessment of a in terms of colour redesigned intensive care unit room by patients and staff. Dresden, Research Paper, TU Dresden.

Roger S. Ulrich (2002) Health Benefits of Gardens in Hospitals, Center for Health Systems and Design, Colleges of Architecture and Medicine Texas A & M University College State, TX 77843

R. B. Tofle, B. Schwarz, S. Yoon, A. Max-Royale (2004), Coalition for Health EnvironmentColor In Healthcare Environments - A Research Report

Sh. J. Bosch, R. Cama, E. Edelstein, J. Malkin (2012) The Application of Color in Healthcare Settings

Evaluation of the patients' surveys

Average evaluation of design and general satisfaction of the patients of both wards in pre-post comparison (patients of both wards were only partially captured as only responsive cases could be interviewed = the result is contingent representative, however, shows clear tendencies, further studies are required)

GENERAL SATISFACTION: (Evaluation before/after)

a) Satisfaction with the nursing assistance:

improvement 28,6% (1,8/1,4)

b) Satisfaction with the medical assistance:

constancy 0% (1,8/1,8)

SATISFACTION WITH THE ROOM (DESIGN): (Evaluation before/after)

c) Satisfaction with the room:

improvement 32% (3,3/2,5)

d) Furnishing of the room:

improvement 40% (4,2/3,0)

e) Tranquillity in the room:

improvement 4,4% (4,7/4,5)

f) Colourfulness of the room:

improvement 62,7% (4,4/2,7)

g) Daylight in the room (atmosphere at daytime):

improvement 23,1% (3,2/2,6)

h) Artificial lighting in the room (atmosphere in ambient light):

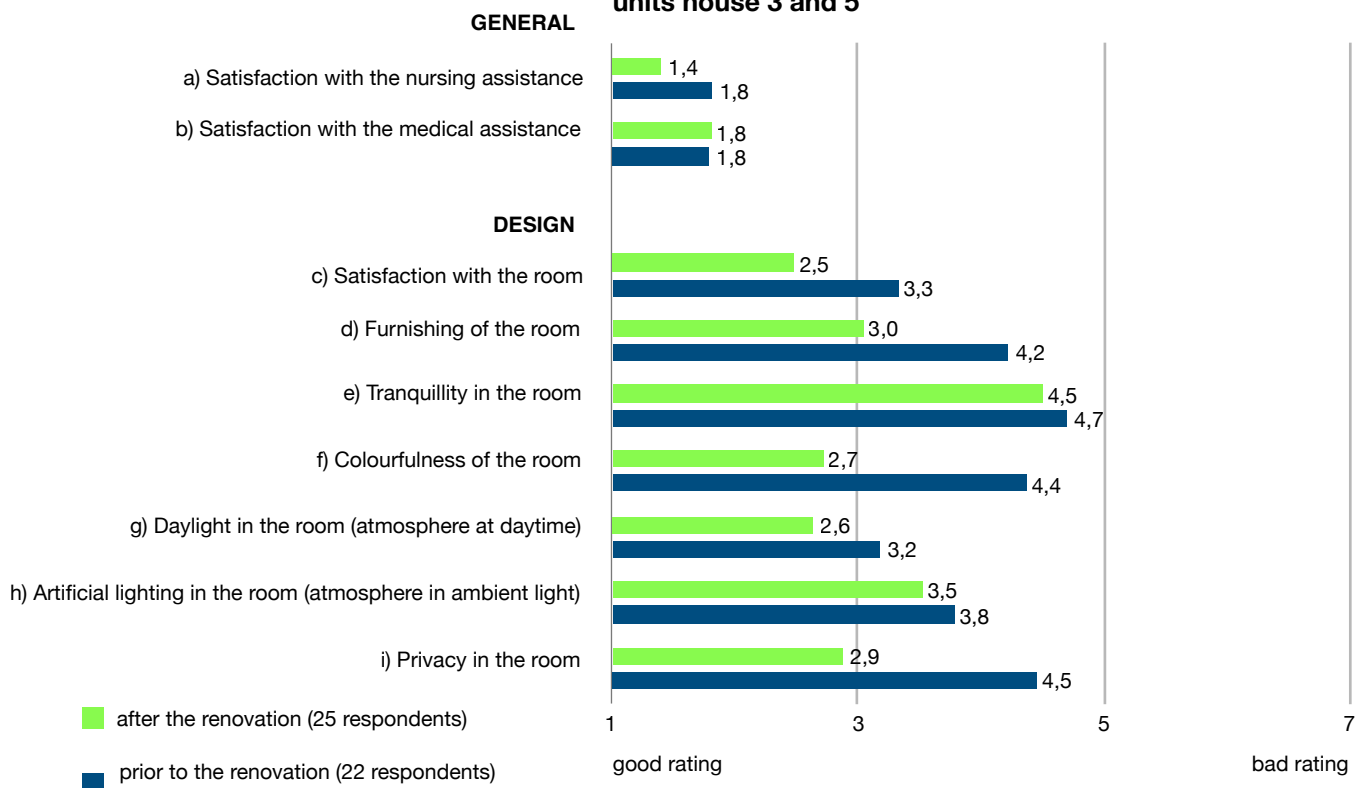
improvement 8,6% (3,8/3,5)

i) Privacy in the room (sensation of safety and secureness):

improvement 55,2% (4,5/2,9)

Average improvement of the factors of the room: 32,3%

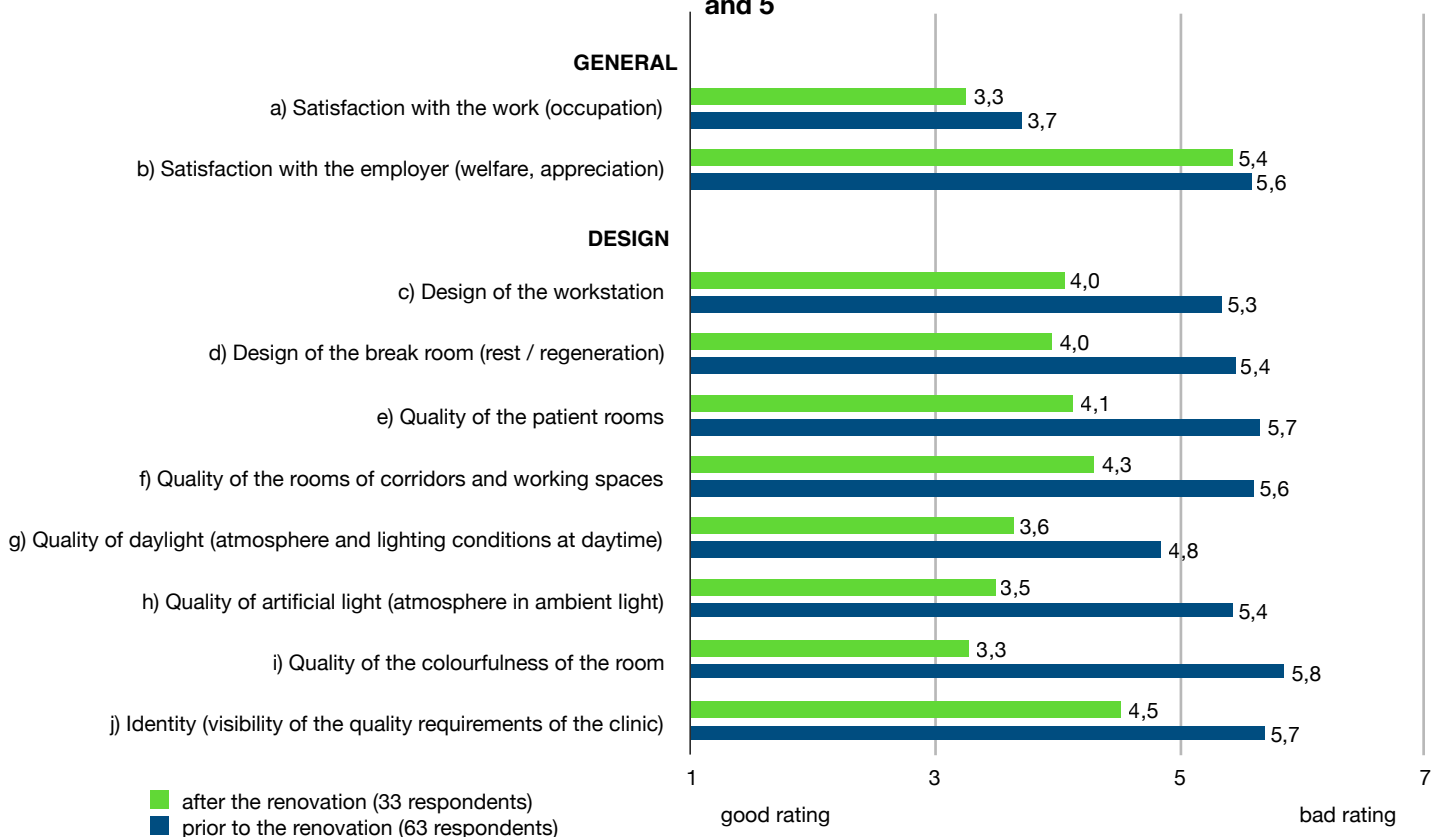
Graph: Evaluation of the patients prior to and after the completion of the colour design of the intensive care units house 3 and 5



Average evaluation of design and general satisfaction of the medical staff of both wards in pre-post comparison (the staff of both wards were surveyed almost entirely = the result is representative)

improvement 3,7% (5,6/5,4)

improvement 26,7% (5,7/4,5)



Evaluation of the medical data

Delirium in hospital:

The professional group intensive-care medicine of the HELIOS clinics Inc have elevated the subject delirium in 2016 and 2017 to the subject of focus and founded a corporation delirium, which is being led by the head physician of the clinic in intensive-care medicine, Dr Wöbker.

“A delirium is a severe disorder of the cerebral functions. Whereas a third of the internistic patients older than 70 years develop a delirium in hospital, the incidence of surgical patients are settled depending on the conducted surgery between 5,1% after smaller surgery and 52,2% after larger surgery. Concerning intensive-care patients, in 30-80% of the cases a delirium occurs – depending on the severity of the disease. The delirium with an increase of the lethality of 3,9 to 22,9% is linked to an up to ten days extended duration of stay in hospital and a worse treatment outcome. In an examination at intensive-care patients could be shown that the survival probability of 1-year declines with every day of delirium by 10%. The delirium leads to a higher post stationary care dependency and at circa 25% of the patients cognitive functional disorders tune in after a delirium, which are comparable with a mild Alzheimer’s disease.”²

Issue:

Which effects do environmental factors such as colour and light have on the consumption of medication in intensive-care medicine?

Setting of research:

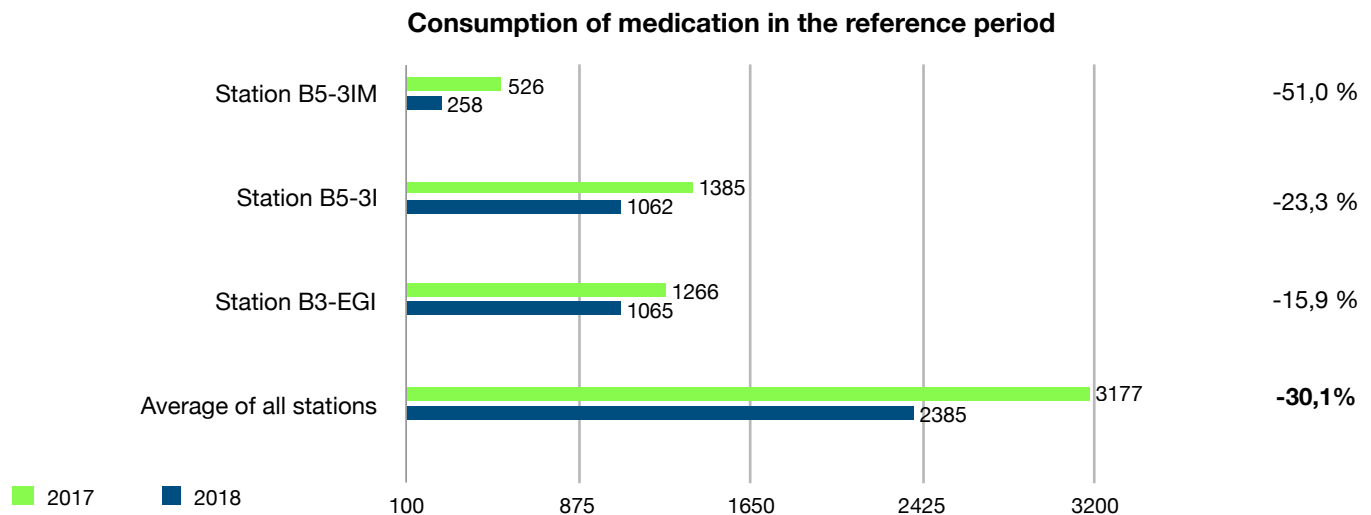
The consumption of benzodiazepines and neuroleptics was measured in two time intervals of each 9 months prior to and after the colour design.

Evaluation:

At the benzodiazepines, no significant shift was observed. At the neuroleptics, clear shifts occurred. Within the reference period, the consumption decreased by averagely 30,1%. In the Intermediate Care Station (IMC), where patients are admitted by an up to 2-days length of stay, the consumption decreased in the reference period by about 51%. At the surgical intensive-care unit (B3-EGI) the consumption decreased in the reference period by about 15,9%. In the non-surgical (internistic/neurological) intensive-care unit B5-3I (10 patient rooms, 20 beds) the consumption decreased in the reference period by about 23,3%.

Patient occupancy in the reference period				
	B5-3IM	B5-3I	B3-EGI	Total
2017	535	863	1057	2451
2018	631	967	951	2547
Factor adjusted for 2018	0,85	0,89	1,11	0,96

² In excerpts rendition of an overview on the topic “Delirium in Hospital”, Zoremba N, Coburn M: Acute confusional states in hospital. Dtsch Arztebl Int 2019; 116: 101-6. DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.2019.0101



Appendix:

Participative procedure colour/lighting design Clinic of Intensive-Care Medicine house 3 + 5

Planning services

Participative procedure

- scientific lecture, various conversations and workshops (doctors, care assistants, medical management, company management, workers' representation, technical management, construction department etc.)

Start of construction 2 wards

- Photographical recording of all relevant spatial data in both wards
- Clarification of all required information in detail for planning
- Contact person for clarification of the planning basis for each ward

Photographic documentation and construction of room layouts for 2 wards

- Processing of photos, assignment and caption
- Registration of all information in the room layout
- Preparation of the room layout for the registration of the information of planning

Construction of colour concepts for 2 wards

- Preliminary draft of colour concepts for patient rooms, staffrooms, waiting areas, side rooms, and both wards in 3 varieties

Intermediate presentation and intermediate conference

- presentation of 3 varieties of concepts and discussion
- Decision for one variety and agreement to the restatements needed

Planning of colour for 2 wards

- draft colour concept for all rooms of the ward according to the selected variety
- development of the execution documents for the placing

Final presentation and final conference

- presentation of the reedited discussion
- decision for one variety and agreement to the restatements needed

Construction services

Illuminants – replacement of the entire neon-illuminants in the available illuminants (costs)

Workroom and corridor: Replacement of the neon-illuminants with LED

colour rendering index 90, colour temperature 4000 K daylight white (Trilux)

Patient and staffrooms: Replacement of the neon-illuminants with LED
Colour rendering index 90, colour temperature 3000 K warm white (Trilux)
Show room: daylight-simulation-system (Trilux biodynamic light)

WALL COLOURS

Coat of painting of all wall and ceiling surfaces with a disinfectant-resistant dull matt colourant
("Sensocryl ELF" by Brillux)

GLOSS PAINT medium gloss level

Door frame, metal door leaves of sliding doors to patient rooms and door rails

FLOOR

Replacement of the coating in show room E.04 and the farewell space (costs)

Conductive DLW Vinyl, Medintone Pur, 885 – 404 (dark brown)

CURTAINS AND PARTITIONING BETWEEN PATIENT BEDS

Creation of a cosy atmosphere: replace vertical louvre curtain by "classic" textile curtains in colour nuance natural white uni and material surface such as "drapilux 102 77" or "drapilux 102 39" by Drapilux. In patient rooms preferably floorlength (UK curtain ca. 20-25 cm distance to floor)

Replace partitioning between patient beds by textile curtains in colour nuance natural white uni and material surface such as "drapilux 102 77" by Drapilux.

Pictorial material:

Helios Hospital Wuppertal, clinic in intensive-care medicine, show room prior to the redesign

Helios Hospital Wuppertal, clinic in intensive-care medicine, show room after the redesign

- Change of the entire situation of light by biodynamic simulation of daylight (adaption to patients' wishes)
- Change of the floor surface (safety), the room colours (privacy and welfare), the door colour (orientation)



HELIOS University Hospital Wuppertal – clinic of intensive-care medicine, patient room, prior to the renovation.



HELIOS University Hospital Wuppertal – clinic of intensive-care medicine, patient room, after the renovation.