Introduction:
Most ICU’s are noisy and may adversely affect patients outcomes and staff performance [1]. WHO reports that the noise level in hospitals should not exceed 35 dB at daylight and 30 dB at night. The aim of this study is to evaluate the noise levels in intensive care unit, to apply awareness training to intensive care staff in terms of noise and to compare the noise levels before and after education.

Methods:
Noise measurement areas are separated into 17 points including 12 patient bedsides, nurse desk, staff desk, wareroom, corridor and entrance of intensive care unite. Measurements were performed 14 times per day. After 10 day, awareness training were given to staff in terms of harmful effects of noise. After the training, noise measurements were repeated during 10 days. After total 20 days the measurements were terminated. Noise was measured with incubator analyzer (FLUKE model: Bio-tek serial no:6050274).

Results:
The mean noise values before and after the training were not statistically different from the mean average noise values (p>0.05). When the time of measurement were compared, the noise levels were higher between 10-16 hours to other measurements before and after the training statistically (p=0.001). Seventeen different noise measurement areas were compared in terms of noise level, there was no statistically significant difference (p>0.05). The differences were examined at the same hours between before and after training. Contrary to expectations, noise levels were found to be higher after training statistically (p<0.05). All of noise measurements were higher than the threshold values that WHO recommended.

Conclusion:
Increased noise levels in critical care units may lead to harmful health effects for both patients and staff. Our results suggest that much noise in the ICU is largely attributable to environmental factors and behavior modifications due to education have not a meaningful effect.

References: