



Improving Perioperative Nursing Knowledge on Peripheral Nerve Blocks

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Background

- The peri-anesthesia nursing team plays an important role in patient and family education of peripheral nerve blocks.
- The aim of this Quality Improvement project was to assess the confidence level of the nursing staff when caring for patients with peripheral nerve blocks in both the pre-operative and post anesthesia care unit at Stanford and identifying areas for improvement.

Methods

- An anonymous 7-question survey using a Likert scale was distributed to pre-operative and post anesthesia care unit nurses in four different hospital settings. The survey assessed their self reported confidence pertaining to assessing nerve blocks, knowledge of local anesthetics duration, sensory levels of different types of blocks, ability to assess for local anesthetic systemic toxicity (LAST), and location of intralipid.
- After a Zoom presentation, access to a new practical nerve block education guide was given. Then, an 8-question post-assessment survey was administered.

Results/Discussion

- Over a 2-week period, 101 pre-assessment surveys were completed.
- Although the post-assessment survey had a low number of respondents (15), the results revealed an increase in self-reported confidence levels in all areas.
- Our survey suggests that while there are some areas that nursing staff already feel familiar with, there are several topics that require further training.
- Having periodic nerve block education assessments/reviews, accessible nerve block educational guides and continuous communication with the Regional Anesthesia team are ways in which the confidence level and knowledge among our nursing colleagues can be augmented.

Nerve Block Pre-Assessment Results

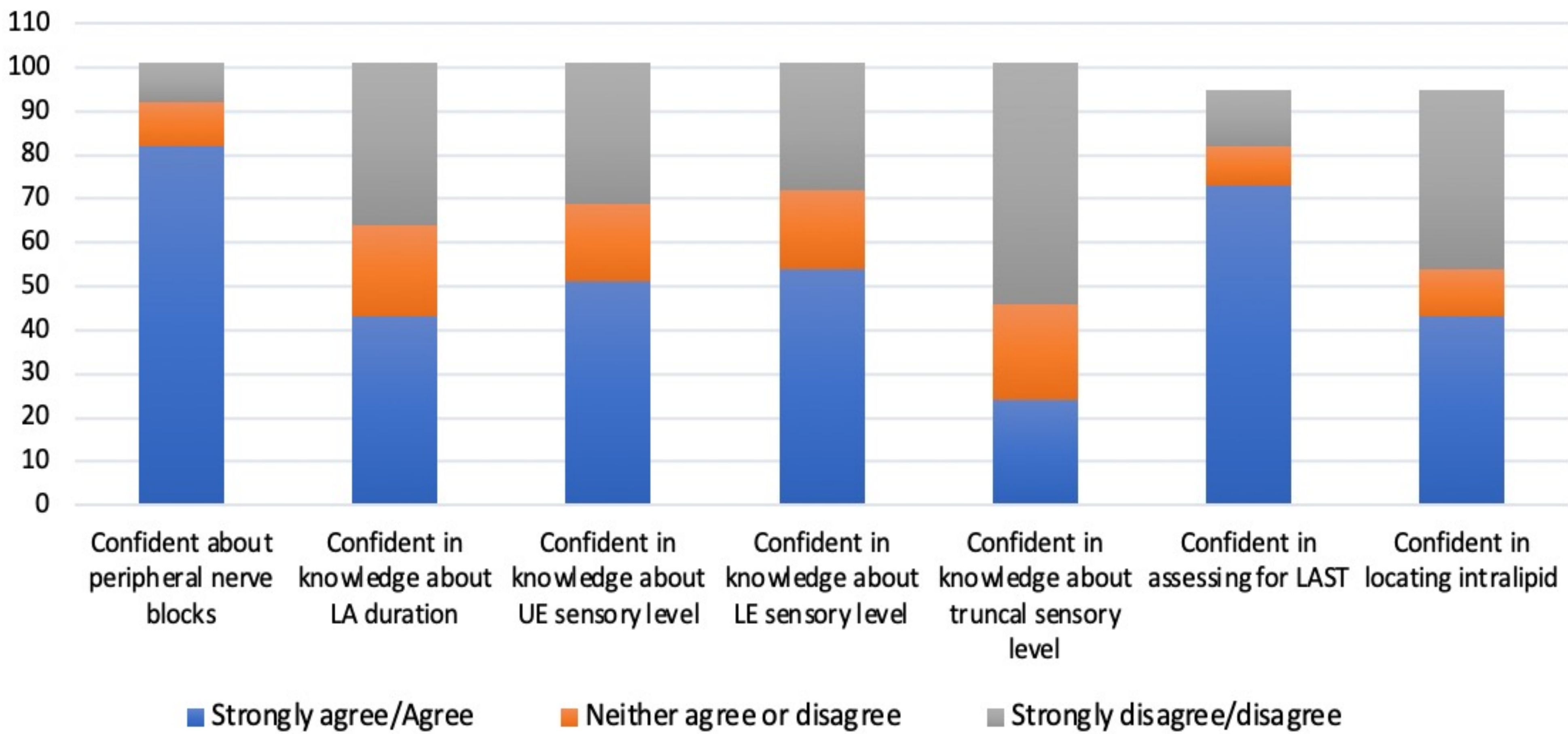


Figure 1: Nerve Block Pre-Assessment Results

Nerve Block Post-Assessment Results

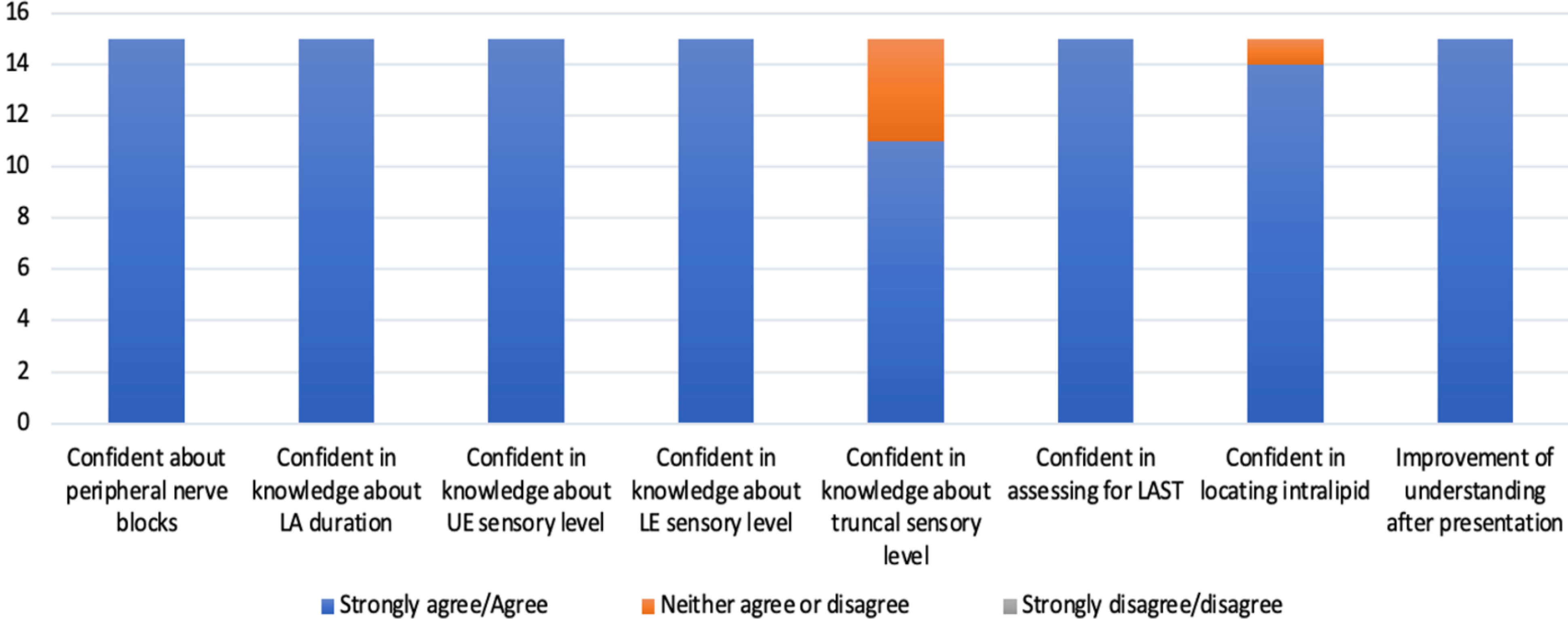


Figure 2: Nerve Block Post-Assessment Results showing increased confidence in all areas after Zoom presentation and access to educational guide.