

A multi-disciplinary e-learning starter course - would you like some salt with that?

Tanner, S., Bosworth, K., Moody, T., Porter, M.

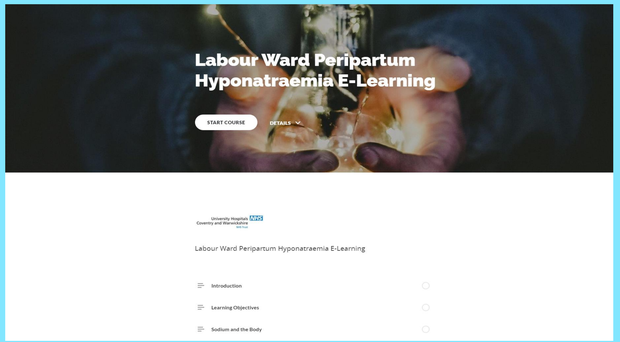
NHS
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire
NHS Trust

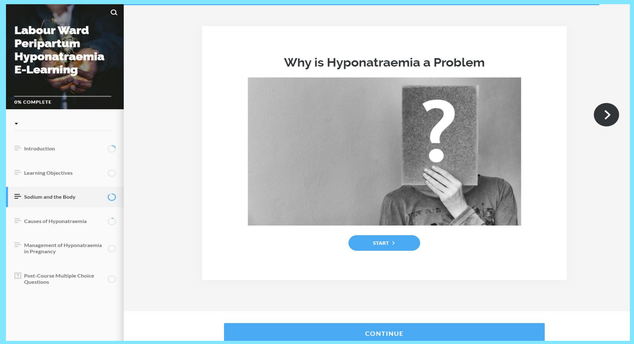
Introduction

Hyponatraemia in the peripartum period is a potentially serious condition with implications for both mother and baby. (1,2) Pregnant women are more at risk of developing hyponatraemia due to having a lower baseline sodium, an impaired ability to excrete water, the anti-diuretic effect of oxytocin and excessive fluid intake during labour. We found that peri-partum hyponatraemia was often poorly managed and there was no trust guidance for the diagnosis and management of the condition. Hence, we designed a new departmental protocol based on the GAIN guidelines. (2) Due to the impact of COVID 19 on traditional teaching methods, we upskilled staff by designing a tailored e-learning package using articulate software and re-assessed the team's knowledge of the condition.

Methods

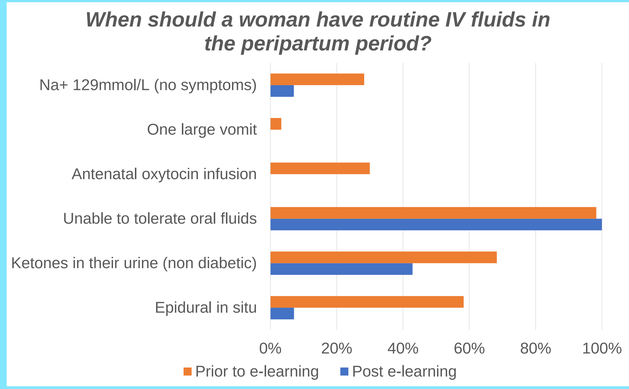
After trust approval and advice from the hospital's audit department, a local survey was sent out to members of the obstetric multi-disciplinary team before and after the introduction of a departmental peri-partum hyponatraemia guideline together with its associated e-learning package.

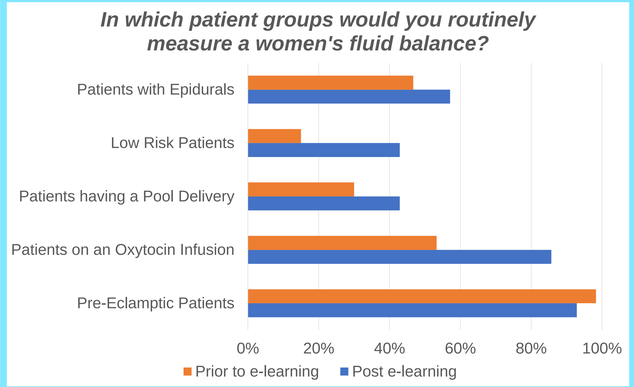


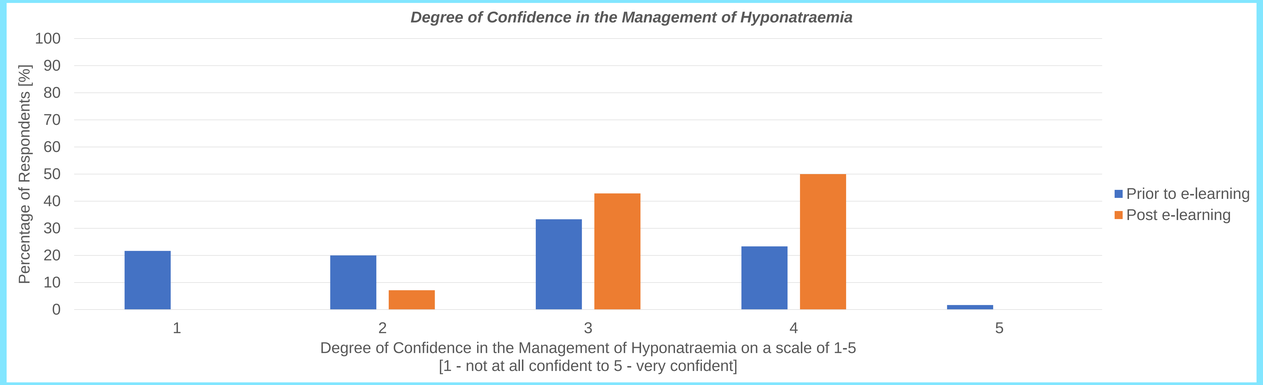


Results

We received a total of 74 responses. Initially, we identified a large proportion of the team were not confident in managing hyponatraemia. After implementation of our e-learning package, we demonstrated an increase in staff confidence. The initial survey showed much uncertainty surrounding the indications for fluid balance monitoring, prescription of intravenous fluids and management of hyponatraemia. However, results from the post e-learning survey showed improved knowledge in all these areas.







Discussion

Our survey suggests that many members of the obstetric multi-disciplinary team were unfamiliar and not confident in managing peri-partum hyponatraemia. However, a tailored e-learning programme is an extremely useful adjunct in highlighting new guidance, upskilling members of the team and changing the attitudes of the multi -disciplinary team to unfamiliar medical conditions.

References

1) Solomon N, Many A, Orbach R, Mandel D, Shinar S. Maternal and neonatal hyponatremia during labor: a case series. J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med. 2019; 32(16):2711-2715. doi:10.1080/14767058.2018.1446517.
2) The Regulatory and Quality Improvement Authority. Guidelines and Audit Implementation Network (GAIN).*Guideline for the Prevention, Diagnosis and Management of Hyponatraemia in Labour and the Immediate Postpartum Period.* Available from: https://www.rqia.org.uk/RQIA/files/df/dfd57ddd-ceb3-4c0d-9719-8e33e179d0ff.pdf[TM1] [Accessed 9th February 2022]