

Lessons Served by Tea Trolley Teaching on the Labour Ward

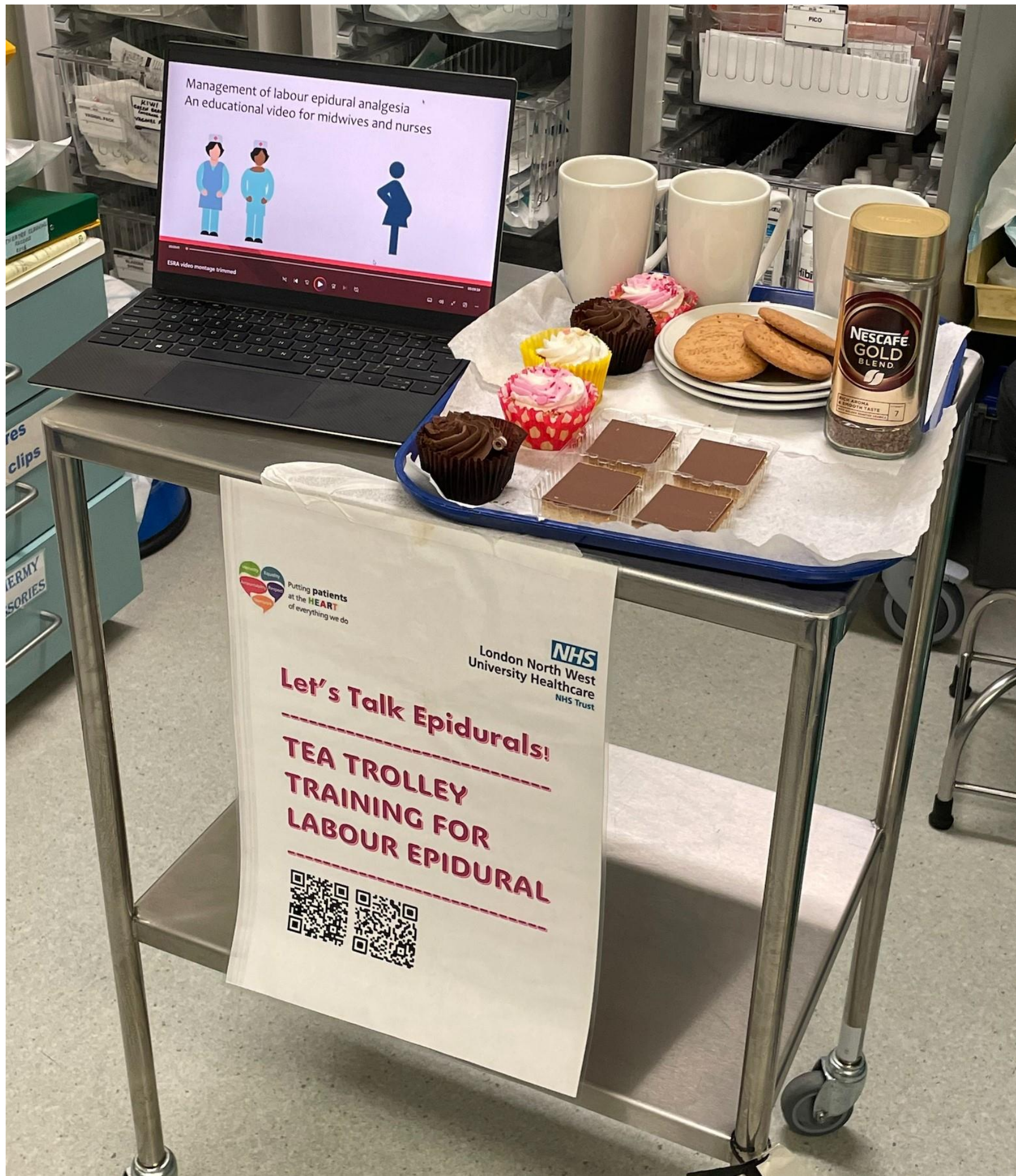
Freddie Downes¹, Tooba Nawaz², Katie Morse¹, Nuala Lucas³, Abigail Richardson³, Sneh Shah³

¹Trainee in Anaesthesia, ²Senior Clinical Fellow in Anaesthesia, ³Consultant Anaesthetist



Introduction

- Epidural analgesia remains the gold standard for pain management during labour
- Midwives play a crucial role in overseeing and administering epidural analgesia top-ups and rapidly recognising complications
- Refresher training in safe epidural management for midwives is likely to be useful in maintaining a high standard of care of the parturient
- Inspired by the innovative ‘Tea Trolley Training’ for airway teaching in Bath [1], we were curious to see if this approach could be used on Labour Ward to provide midwives with targeted refresher training on epidurals



Results

- 20 midwives attended a Tea Trolley Training session delivered by one of 3 anaesthetist trainers

Pros

- Inexpensive and easy set up
- Non-judgmental informal learning space
- Targeted to learning needs of midwife
- Improved interdisciplinary relations

Cons

- Finding a suitable time period during which a midwife on a busy and understaffed labour ward could engage without interruption
- Unpredictable and time-critical nature of labour ward activity meant that training sessions could not be ‘pre-booked’
- Variable and unscheduled downtime between sessions for anaesthetists

Method

- Anaesthetic trainees repurposed steel trolleys from operating theatres to provide a mobile teaching platform combined with refreshments
- At various times through the day, the trainees would travel through the labour ward and opportunistically offer midwives teaching
- Pre- and post-teaching surveys to explore baseline knowledge as well as the impact and reception of this teaching style were conducted
- Each of the anaesthetic trainees also evaluated their experiences as trainers
- The sessions were carefully conducted to avoid disruption to the delivery of clinical care

Discussion

- TTT was an effective way of delivering refresher training on epidural management
- Its efficacy maybe limited by the environment in which it is carried out and also by the workload of the target audience
- We plan to deliver further TTT sessions on epidural management on our labour ward and will offer midwives attendance certificates that can be used for appraisals
- Our trainers will be better prepared for ‘downtime’ between sessions and will make use of this time to update their logbooks, etc!