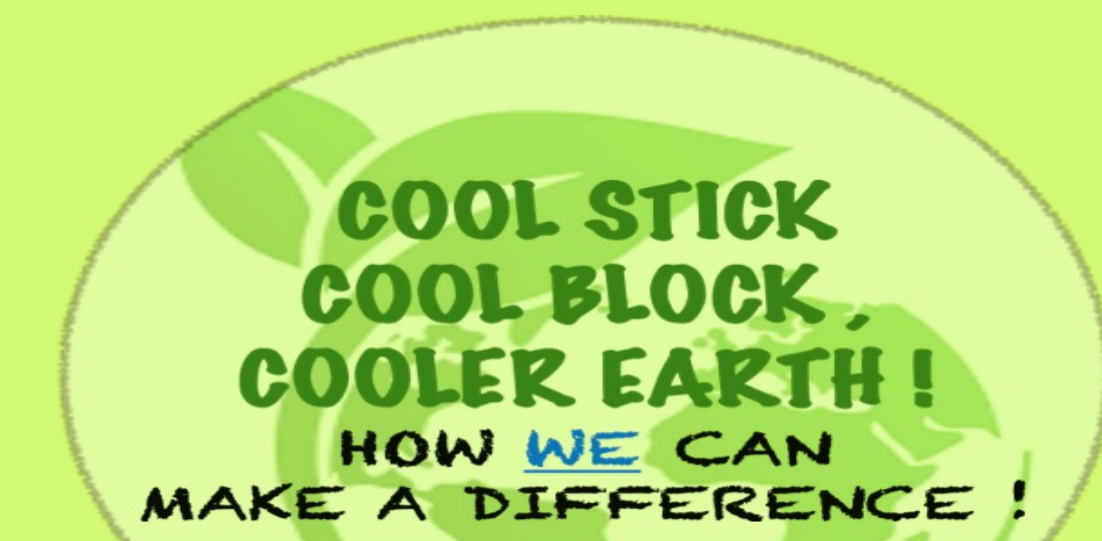


Project “CoolSticks®, Cool Block, Cooler Earth!” - A step towards a sustainable future.

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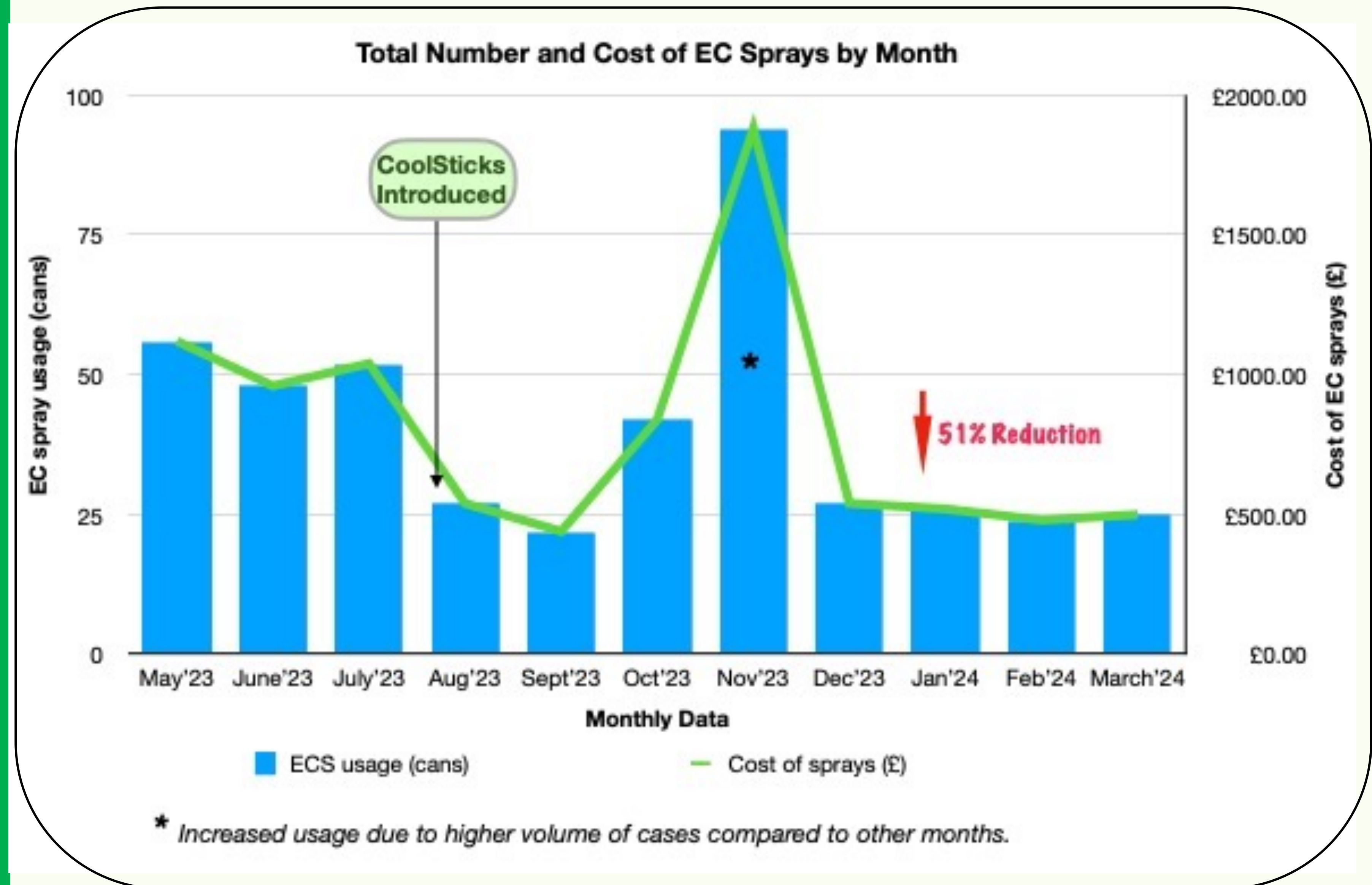
Introduction:

CoolSticks® (CS) are a cheaper and environmentally sustainable alternative to Ethyl Chloride (EC) sprays to check sensory neuraxial blockade (SNB)¹. We would like to share our experience with CS at a tertiary care obstetric unit in UK.

Methods:

After audit committee approval and Standard Operating Procedure formulation, CS were introduced in the obstetric theatres and usage monitored. Pre-trial and post-trial clinician surveys were conducted, concerns identified and addressed.

Results:



Obstetric Theatres

Reduction in ECS usage: 51 %
Monthly savings: £ 530
Projected annual savings: £ 6360



BWH Trust

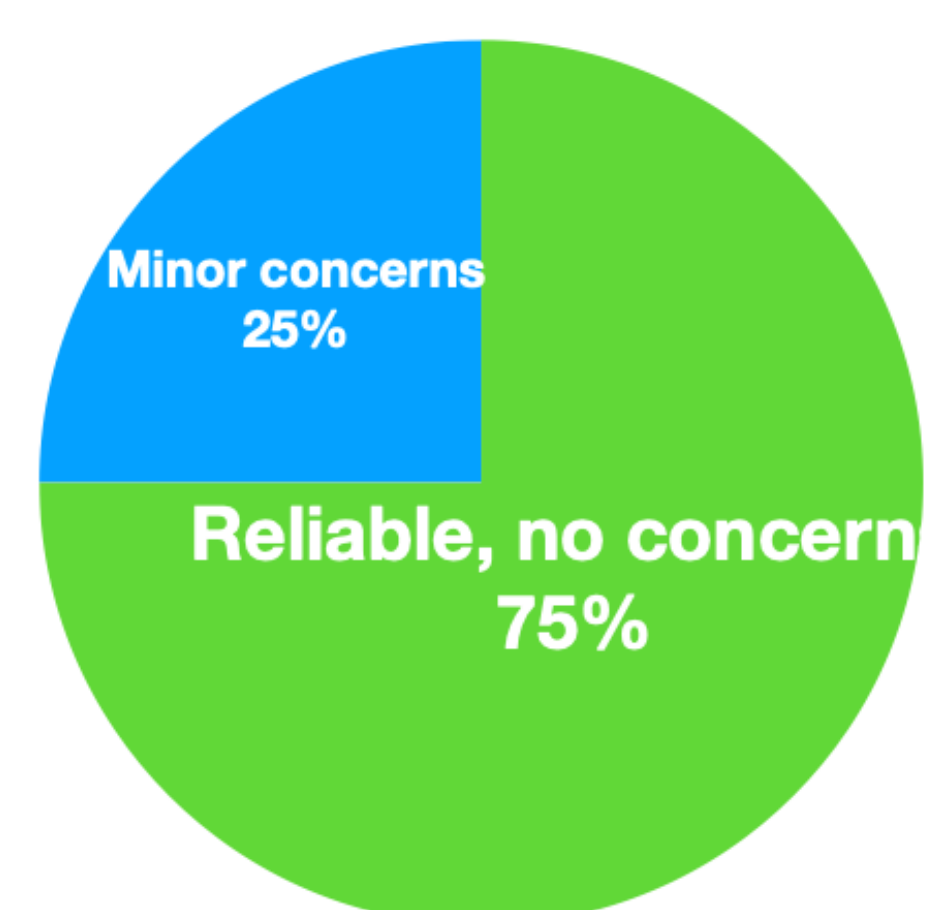
Projected annual savings: £ 11,520
Projected annual CO2 savings: 9792 kg eCO2
(= 38,304 miles)



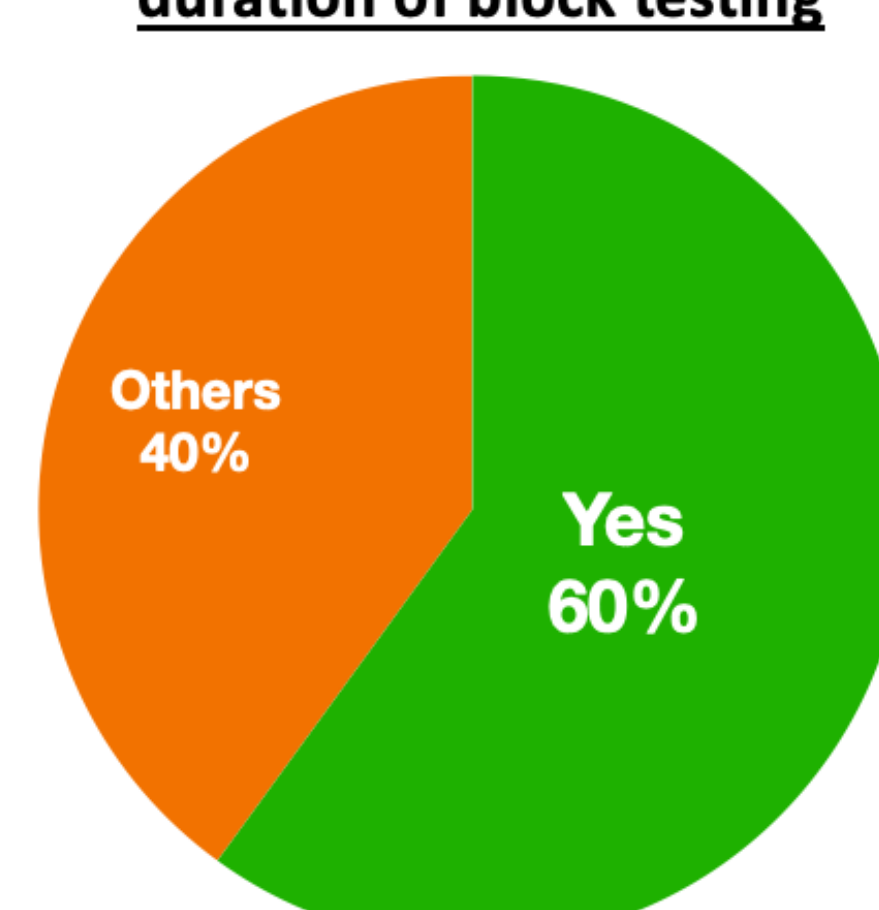
- Average usage of ECS in Obstetric theatres before introduction of CS: 52 cans/month
- Average usage of ECS in Obstetric theatres after introduction of CS: 25.5 cans/month (Dec'23-March'24)
- Average usage of ECS in Trust: 94 cans/month
- 1 can= 17 kg eCO2²
- 1 can = 76 miles²

Clinician Survey Results

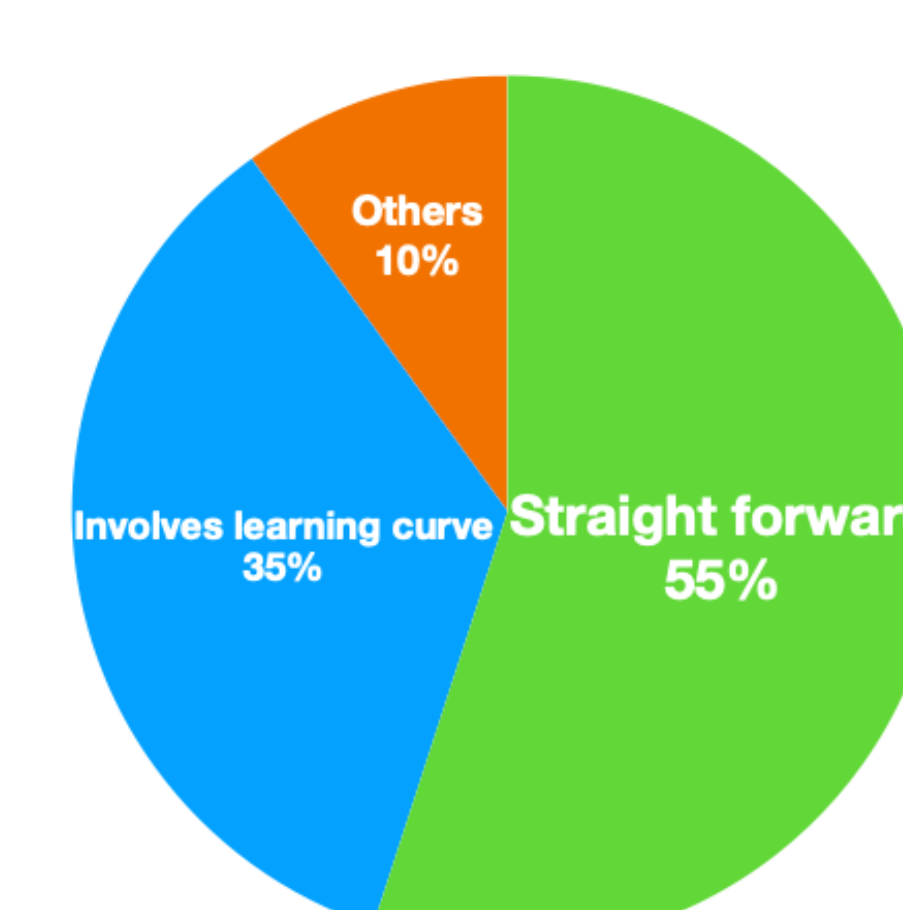
Clinician Experience with CS



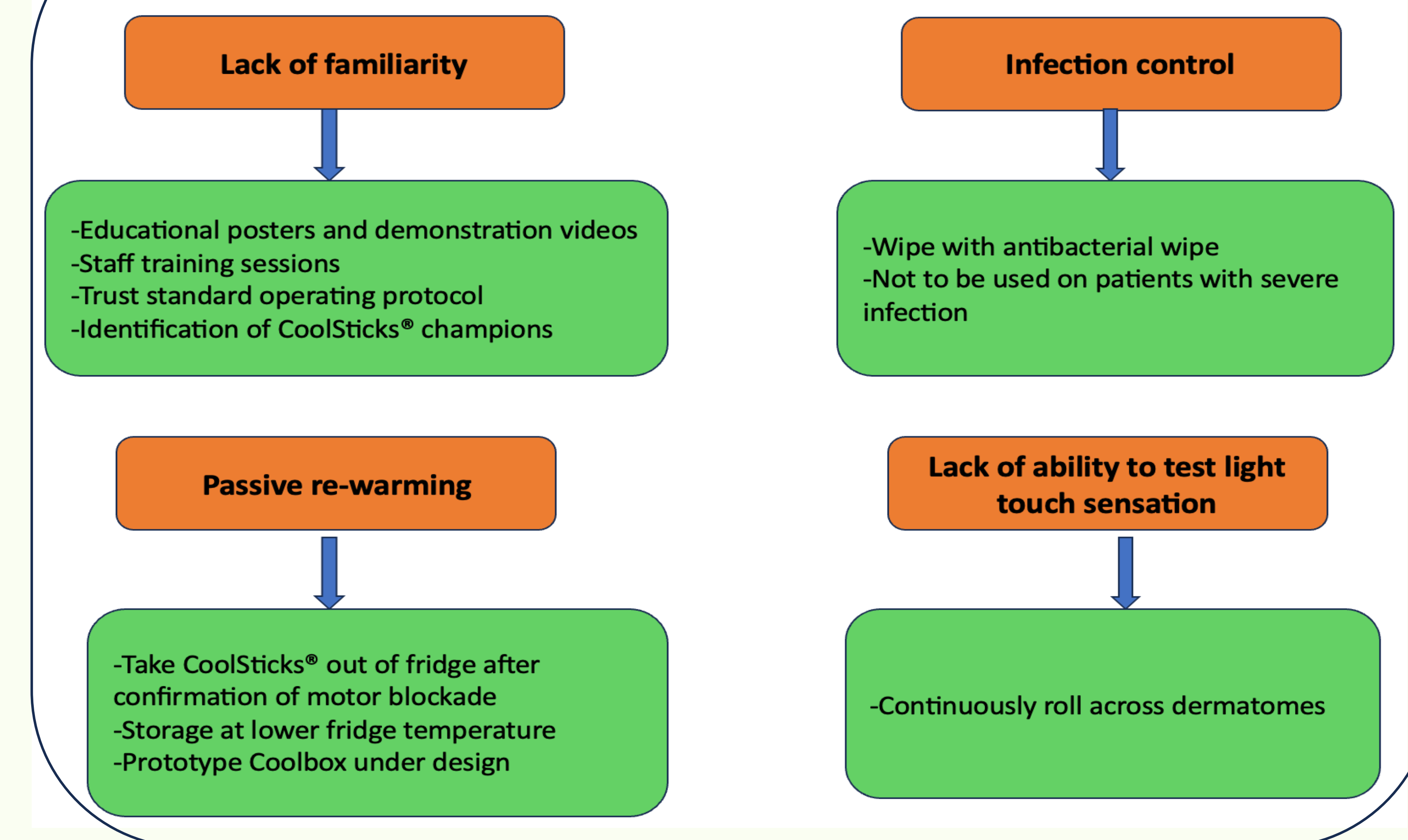
Retained chillness for the duration of block testing



Overall ease of using CS



Operational Challenges and Solutions



Conclusion:

We have demonstrated CS to be cost-efficient, sustainable and having a good operator acceptability without compromising patient care. We hope our work helps to allay apprehensions about operational challenges encountered using CS and encourage the use of CS as the preferred option for testing SNB. We intend to implement CS in other areas of the Trust and further reduce the usage of EC sprays, paving way for a sustainable future.

References:

1. Oliver Grasby et al. Comparison of CoolStick® with ethyl chloride efficacy in the assessment of sensory block level after spinal anaesthesia: a single-centre service evaluation. Vol 132, Issue 1, P205-206, January 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bja.2023.10.027>
3. University Hospitals Dorset Green Ward Competition 2020 Case Studies. (2020) Available at: https://oaa-anaes.ac.uk/assets/_managed/cms/files/Trainee Hub/Ethyl%20chloride%20case%20study.pdf



* CS instruction video