

Emergency Flash Card Simulation Training for Obstetric Multidisciplinary Teams

Christine James¹ and Dale Seddon¹

1. Anaesthetic department, Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust London



Guy's and St Thomas'
NHS Foundation Trust

Background

Simulation is an important part of training. It aids in teaching, managing emergencies, human factors, leadership and augments decision-making skills.¹ It is also a great opportunity for debriefing and educating multidisciplinary teams (MDTs).

Methods can vary in fidelity and resources required. For example, flash cards could improve a team's readiness to manage critical situations.² A labour ward is a rapidly changing environment, where MDTs must always be ready for emergencies.

Our Aims

This trial's aim was to deliver a quick, low fidelity, flash card simulation to elevate team performance and improve awareness of guidelines, equipment, and human factors.

Method

A baseline electronic survey was distributed to members of the Obstetric MDT.

It examined their understanding of roles in an emergency, equipment location, guidelines and their opinion on simulation training.

Subsequently, five-minute flash card scenarios were trialled using obstetric emergencies like major haemorrhage, local anaesthetic toxicity and total spinal. A post-intervention survey was collated.

References

1. Alalade A O, Sekar S. Simulation-Based Education for Enhancing Obstetric Emergency Response: A Needs Impact Evaluation. *Cureus*. 2023; 15: e43908.
2. Teh, S., Di-Sarno, A. and Venkatraj, K. Teamwork makes the dream work: MDT tea trolley flashcard training. *British Journal of Anaesthesia*, 2023; 13: 98–e99.

Results

Pre-intervention, 100% welcomed additional emergency situational training. And 90% of respondents wanted allocated roles in an emergency.

Fig 1: Awareness of key guidelines and emergency equipment

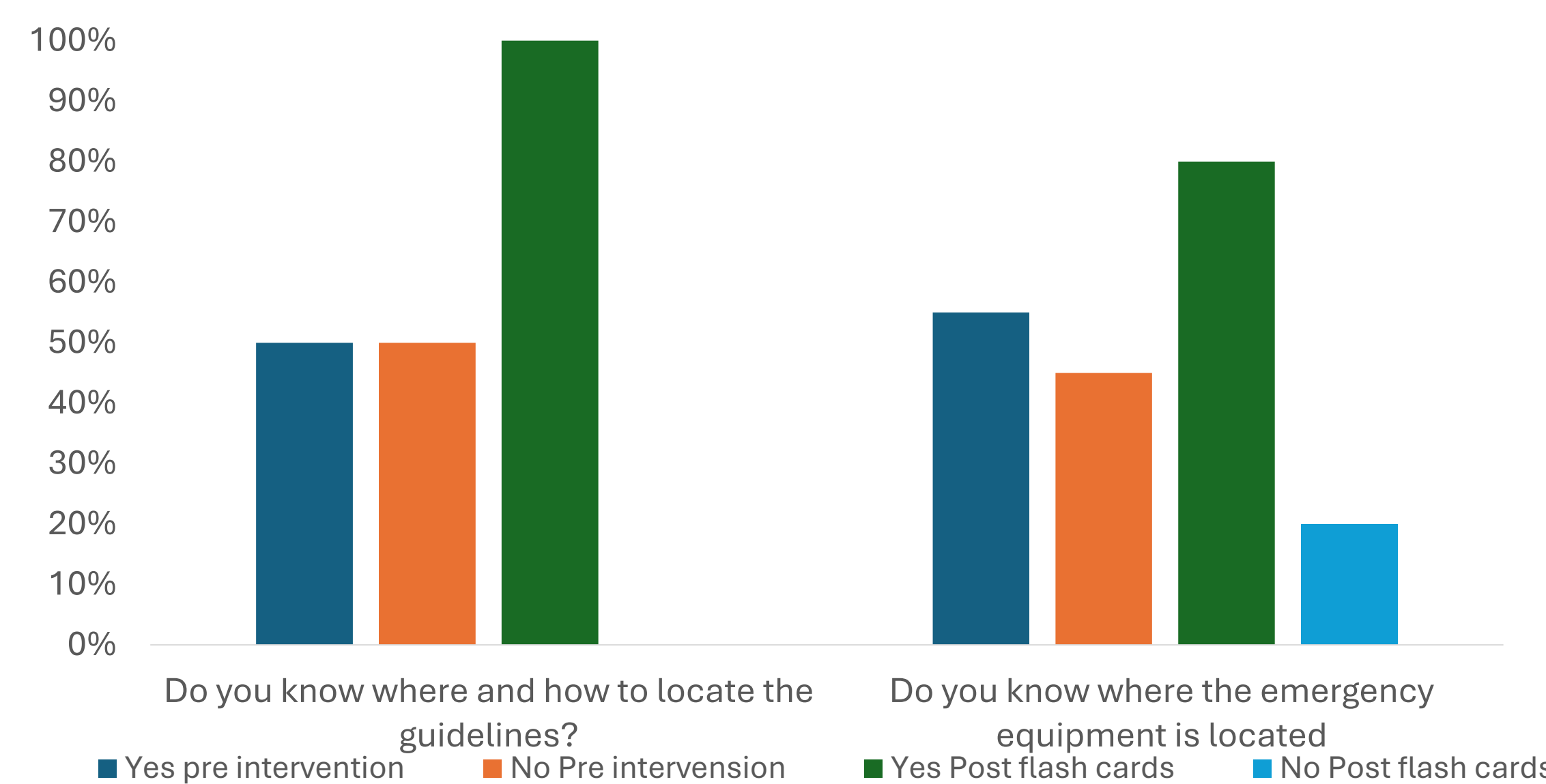
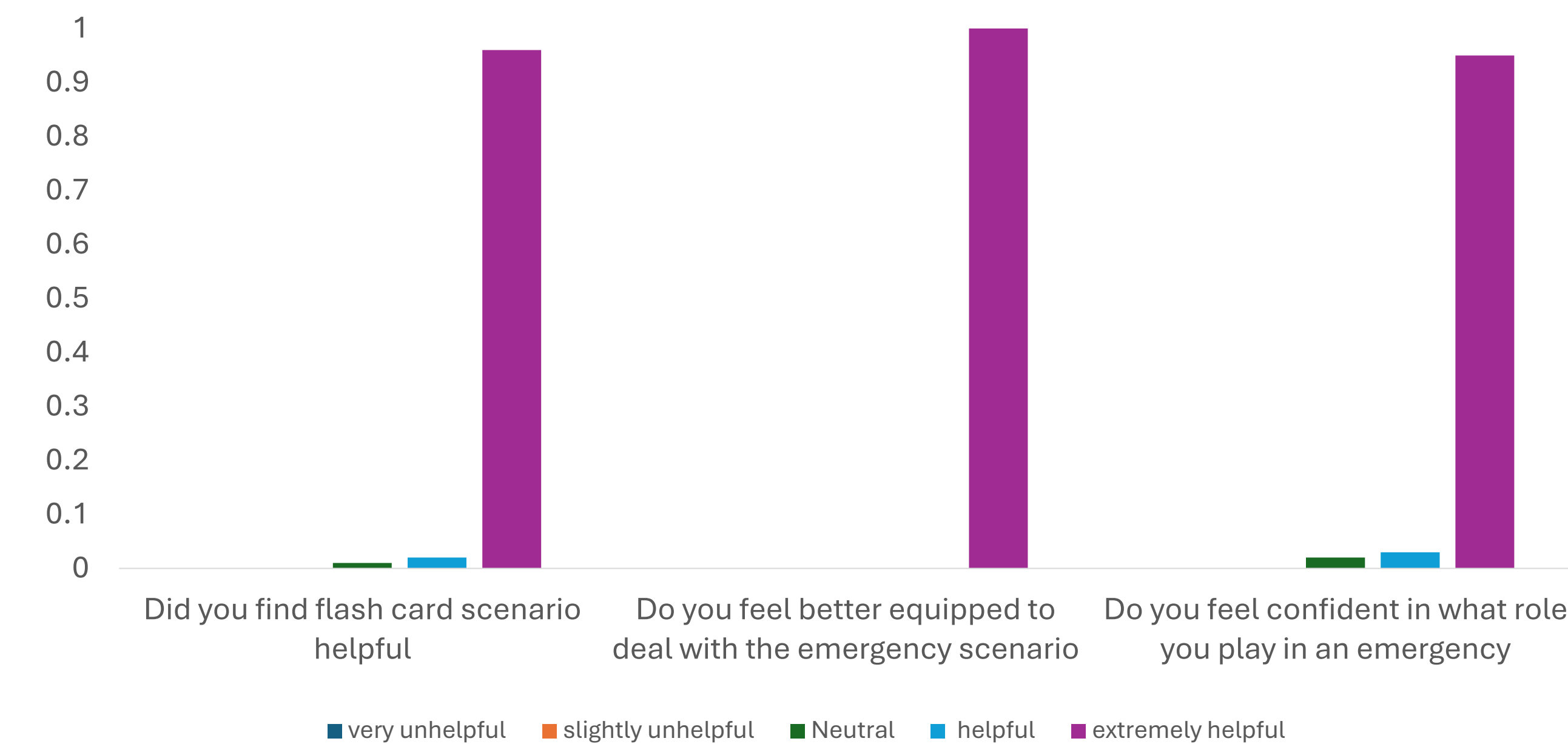


Fig 2: Opinions on the flash card training



All feedback received was positive:

“Helps make emergencies run more efficiently” “makes team understand individual person abilities in an emergencies” “quick and beneficial teaching” “Simple and effective teaching” “Good to review where items are in an emergency” “Good to review where items are in an emergency” “Good to help team members recognise their roles for potential emergencies” “clears confusion regarding roles” “recaps where equipment is”

Discussion

Flash card scenarios received an excellent reception from the MDT. It encouraged engagement, allowing team members to speak, ask questions and have useful discussions.

As a result, team members became more familiar with the pressures on their peers and associated limitations. They also better understood how roles can evolve during emergencies and related leadership responsibilities. This is anticipated to result in better patient care, notably by improving confidence levels and awareness of the location of specialist equipment.

Prior to the intervention, knowledge of where to find guidelines was poor, but there was a 100% increase in knowledge following the scenarios. It is evident that flash cards are a convenient and effective teaching aid, that can be utilised to improve a theatre team's readiness to manage critical situations. This method can be further adapted by varying scenarios or having different team members run simulations.

We plan to continue flash card training with different emergencies and key learning points.