



Peer Teaching in Obstetric Anaesthesia: The OATS Initiative

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References



Background

Anaesthetic trainees' exposure to obstetric teaching varies by hospital site, available teachers, and workload.

Formal teaching opportunities are often limited due to high service demands.

Peer teaching provides a safe, supportive learning environment promoting active participation [1]. Consultant support ensures accurate content and a blended learning approach [2].



Aims

1. To gather information on **anaesthetic trainees' experience** of obstetric teaching for their IACOA in NHS Lothian.
2. To **design and deliver a trainee-led teaching session** for anaesthetists learning obstetric anaesthesia.
3. To obtain **feedback** and **adapt future sessions** to the learners' needs.



Initial Survey (CT3s n=5)

Satisfaction with obstetric teaching was $\leq 5/10$ in 60% of respondents.

No formal teaching was available beyond the SESSA Obstetrics for CTs day, IACOA Sim Day, and PROMPT.

Trainees requested:

- **Specific handling of obstetric emergencies.**
- **Run through of theatre scenarios with hints and tips.**
- **Around the time of IACOA.**



The OATS Solution

OATS = Obstetric Anaesthetic Trainee-Led Teaching Session

A blended peer-led model developed and run by anaesthetic and obstetric trainees with Consultant oversight:

- Half-day session timed to coincide with IACOA
- Run 3 times per year (23/10/25, 12/12/25, 24/03/26)
- Small groups
- Adapted iteratively from feedback between sessions.

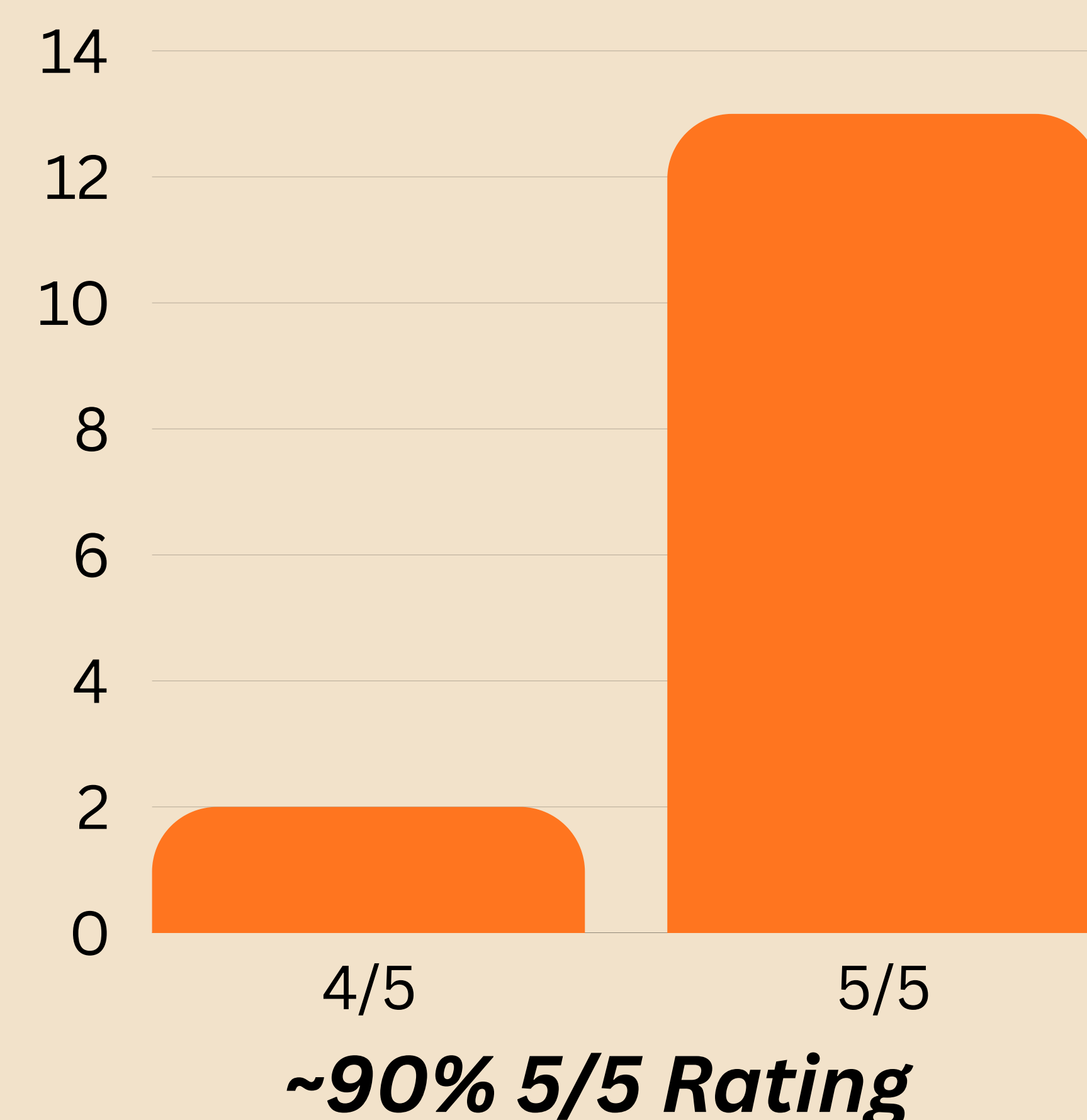
Targeted Curriculum:

- Epidural Troubleshooting
- Theatre Cases (+ top-up in the labour room)
- Obstetric Emergencies
- An Obstetrician's Perspective
- Case-based discussion - *Challenging cases, no right or wrong answer in a low-stakes environment.*

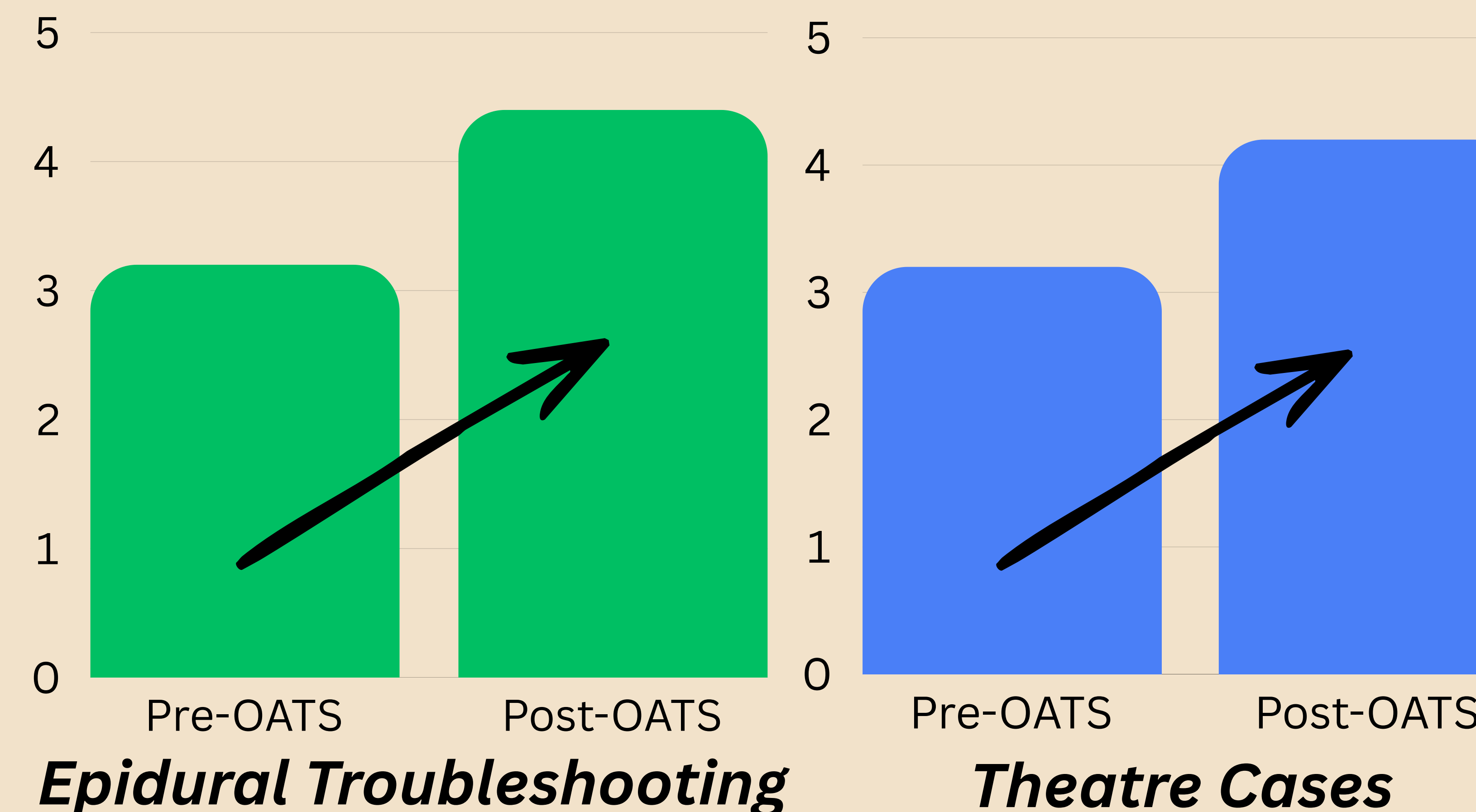


Measure Impact (CT2s n=15)

Universal Helpfulness (/5)



Confidence Shifts: Pre-OATS vs Post-OATS (/5)



Trainee Perspective

Approachable discussion

Praised friendly environment and hearing real-world perspectives

Fills a huge gap

Useful at point of IACOA to ask all the small silly questions!

The Future of OATS



Expansion to Full Day Sessions



Hands on Simulation for Difficult Epidurals



Continuous Adaptation for New Cohorts