



A ‘TOPIC OF THE WEEK’ QUALITY-IMPROVEMENT INTERVENTION TO ENHANCE FORMAL TEACHING DURING OBSTETRIC ANAESTHESIA PLACEMENTS



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Background

High workload and case complexity are key stressors for obstetric anaesthesia residents (1).

Local feedback identified a need for more structured, formal teaching.

A 9-week “Topic of the Week” programme was introduced:

- Weekly focus on core obstetric anaesthesia curriculum topics
- Flexible delivery to accommodate clinical workload
- Aimed to address learning needs and improve understanding of managing common and complex cases

Methodology

- 1 Prospective quality improvement project (Oct–Dec 2025) using a PDSA methodology. Registered with local QI Lead.
- 2 Weekly emails sent to consultants working on labour ward with topic + discussion points for the week
- 3 Teaching delivered by senior registrar (SIA) or consultant
- 4 Printed materials (BJA education/ research articles) upported guided discussion and self-directed learning
- 5 Anonymous feedback collected via QR code surveys.
Survey assessed:
 - Topic relevance
 - Self-rated improvement in understanding (0–10 scale)
 - Usefulness of printed materials
 - Free-text responses (thematic analysis)

As survey completion was voluntary, not all teaching sessions were captured. Findings were interpreted as part of an improvement process.

OBSTETRIC ANAESTHESIA TOPIC OF THE WEEK

Daily advanced trainee or consultant led 5 to 10-minute teaching/discussion focusing on the anaesthetic approach to specific scenario’s/cases

Date (week commencing)	Topic
13 October	Neuraxial anaesthesia in patients with back conditions, abnormal coagulation, sepsis
20 October	Neurological Conditions
27 October	Antepartum and Postpartum Haemorrhage
3 November	Epidural troubleshooting, CSE for labour and surgery, Ultrasound
10 November	Post-op Headache / neurological symptoms
17 November	Hypertensive disorders in Pregnancy, Eclampsia
24 November	Haematological Conditions
1 December	Pain during C-Section and block testing
8 December	GA including TIVA and analgesia (TAP blocks)

Results

14 responses (CT2–ST5)

- 100% agreed topics matched learning needs
- Understanding improved: mean 9/10 (range 7–10)
 - Printed resources used by 85%
 - Helpfulness score: mean 8/10 (range 8–10)

Key themes:

- Value of senior-led teaching
- Increased confidence in complex case management
- Usefulness of printed materials

Barriers to implementation:

- High clinical workload limiting reliable daily teaching delivery

Suggested improvements:

- Broader topic coverage

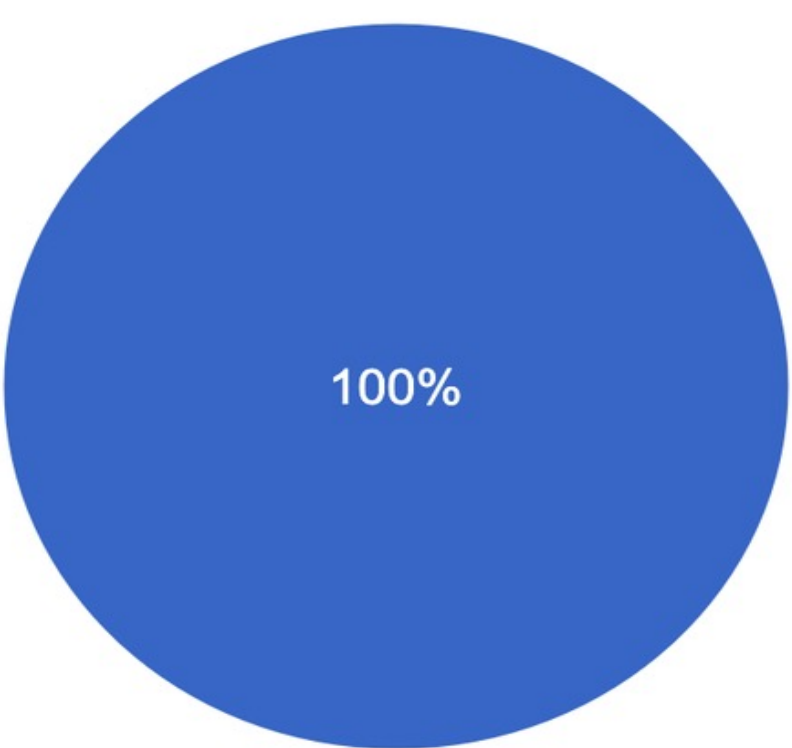
Conclusion

This structured, low-resource “Topic of the Week” intervention showed early signs of improving teaching consistency and perceived learning during a tertiary obstetric anaesthesia placement. It provides a foundation for ongoing education.

Next steps will focus on expanding topic breadth, improving reliability of feedback capture, and exploring a fixed daily teaching time.

Was this topic relevant to your educational or training needs?

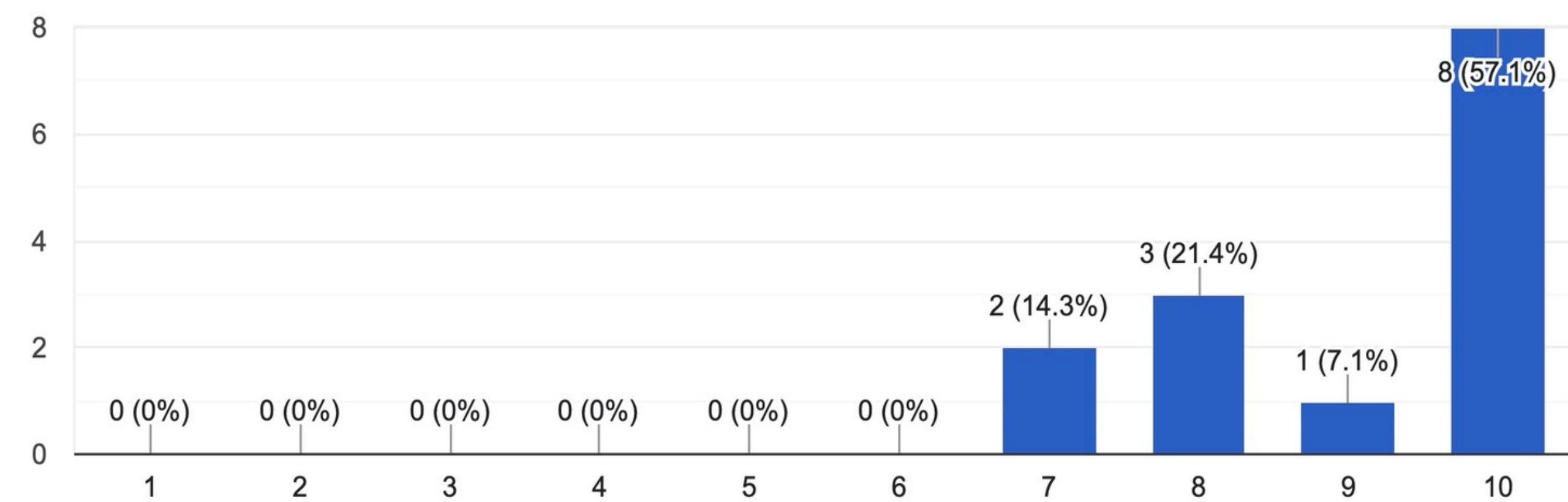
14 responses



● Yes
● No
● N/A

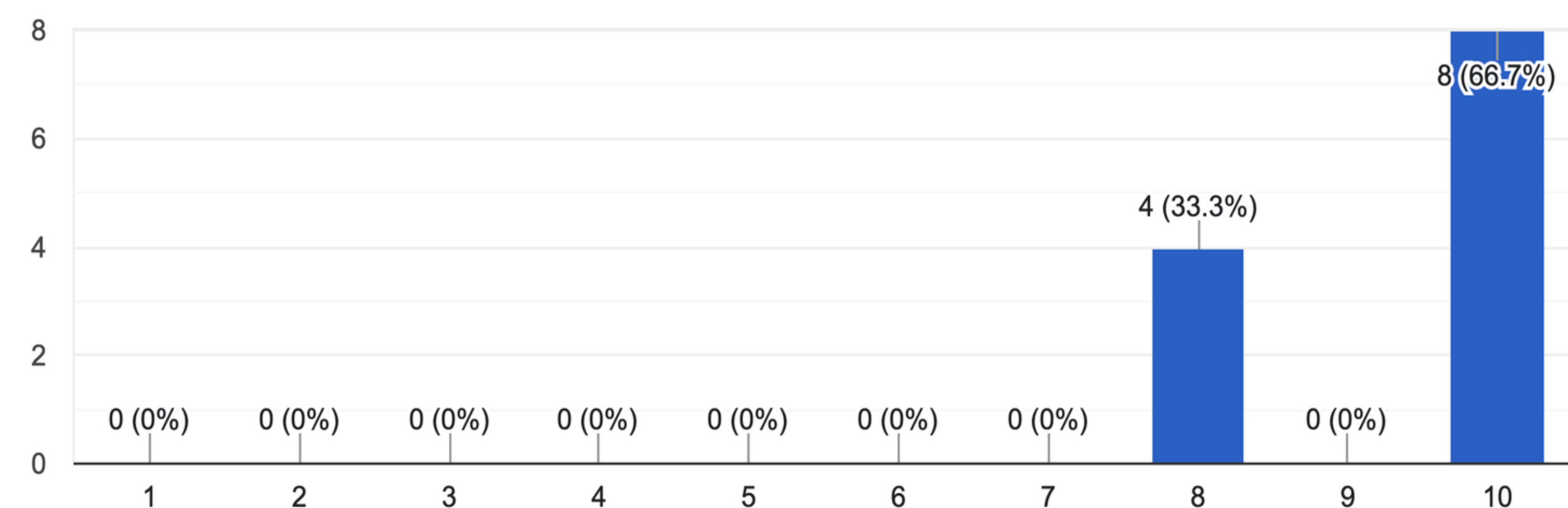
How much did this teaching improve your understanding of this topic?

14 responses



How helpful were the printed educational resources?

12 responses



References:

Gale et al. A qualitative exploration of stressors in anaesthesia training in the UK and mechanisms to improve resident wellbeing.