

Using WhatsApp to support simulation training in gynaecological laparoscopy

H Pierce* & S Umranikar

Background:

There are numerous issues surrounding the provision of high-quality surgical training for O&G trainees in the current clinical climate. Many factors have contributed towards this including **change in working patterns, loss of apprenticeship models and alternative non-surgical treatment options** (1). The Wessex deanery have supported training recovery through the purchase of at-home box trainers for trainees in the region.

Objective:

Our aim was to create a **WhatsApp group** for trainees keen on developing their gynaecological laparoscopic skills and support them by sharing suggested video exercises, upcoming events and interesting articles/guidelines.

Design:

There are currently 27 group members, and no-one has chosen to exit the group since its inception in October 2022. Content is sent out on weekly to fortnightly basis by the current O&G simulation fellow and the BSGE RIGs representative.

Method:

Feedback was collected through a survey asking 5 questions using the poll function of the WhatsApp group.

1. Do you find this WhatsApp group an acceptable way to receive training prompts?
2. Have you found regular prompts to undertake simulation training helpful?
3. Have you practiced any of the suggested exercises?
4. Has being a part of this group increased your use of simulation equipment?
5. Have you ever felt this group as intrusive to your time away from work/training?

Questions were limited to 5 to achieve a higher response rate.

Responses were analysed using Microsoft Excel.

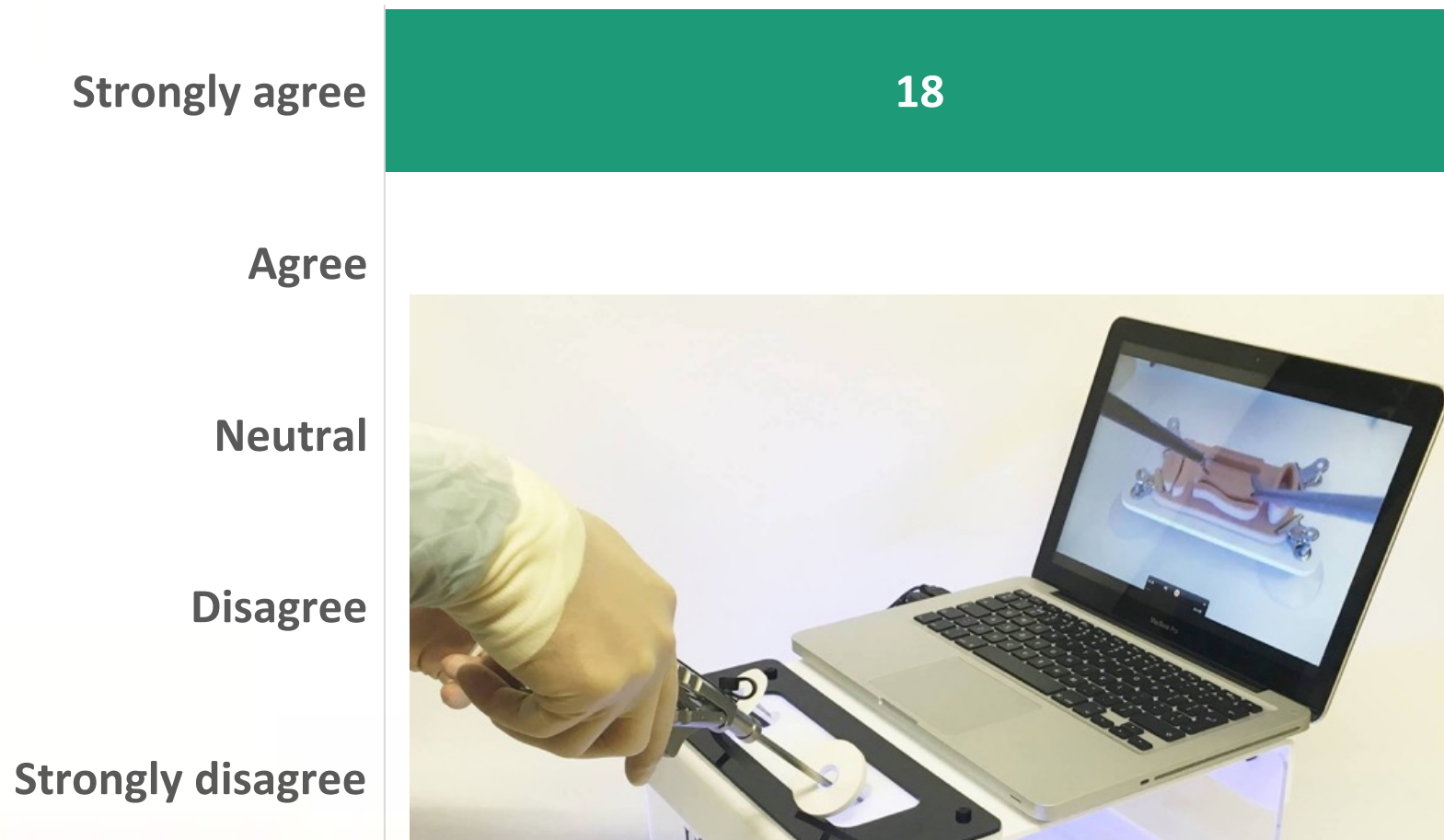
Results:

19 members of the WhatsApp group responded to the survey, a response rate of 70%.

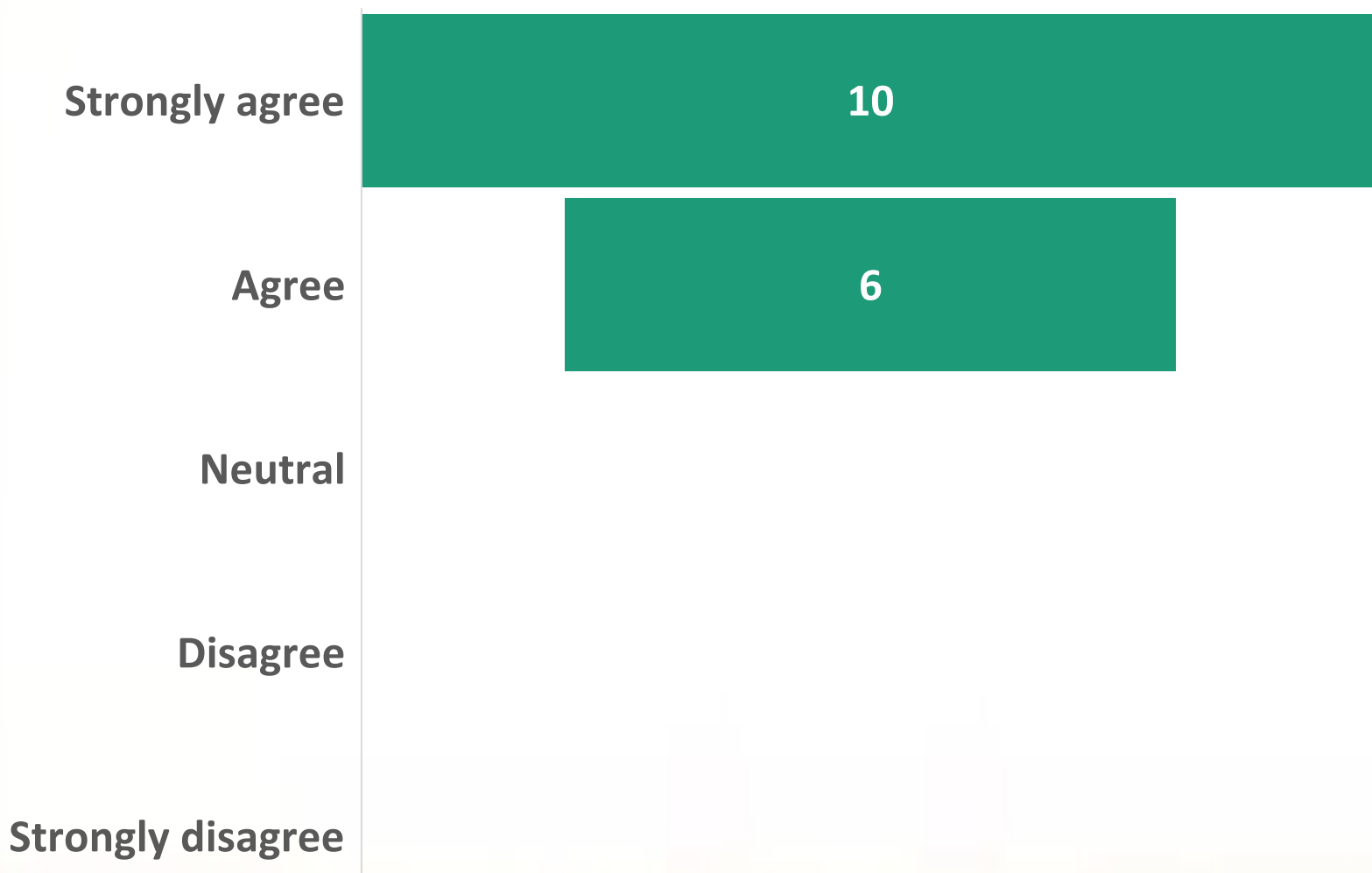
Do you find this WhatsApp group an acceptable way to receive training prompts?



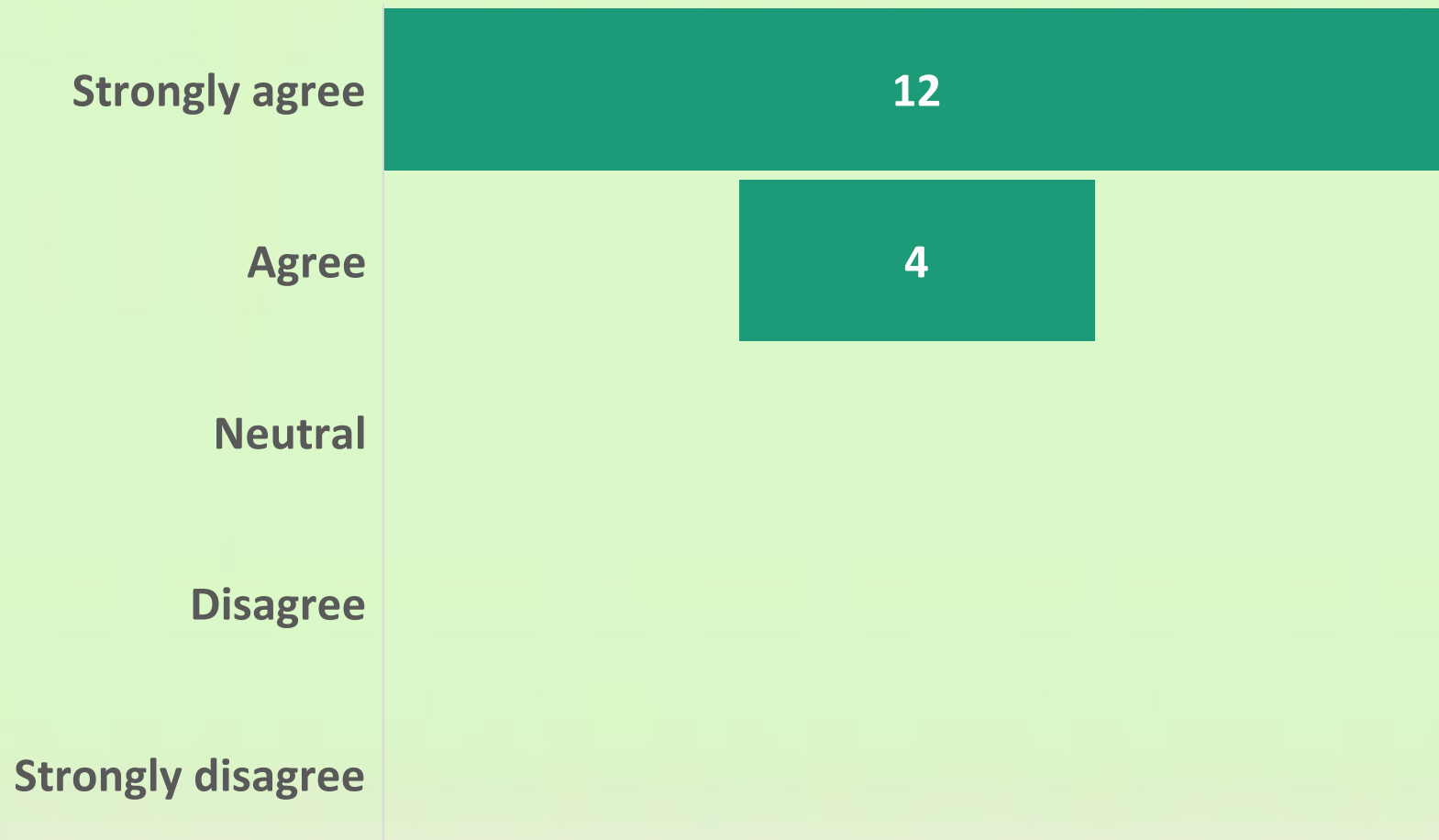
Have you found regular prompts to undertake simulation training helpful?



Have you practiced any of the suggested exercises?

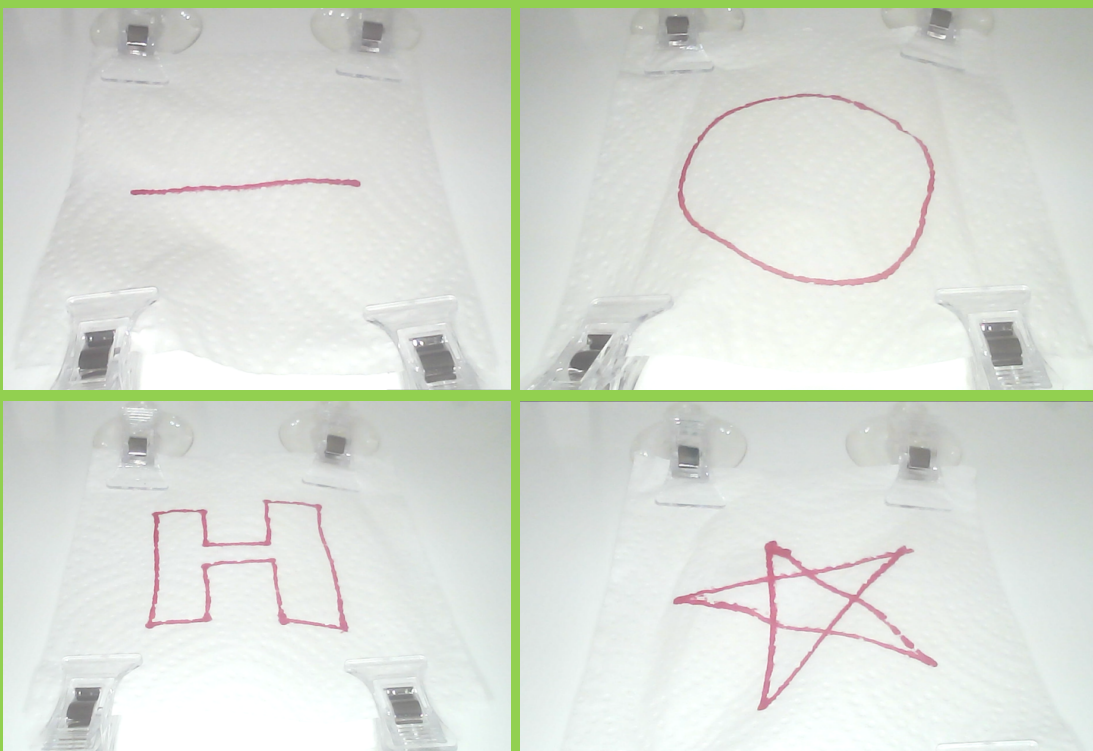


Has being a part of this group increased your use of simulation equipment?



Example content:

Precision cutting exercise

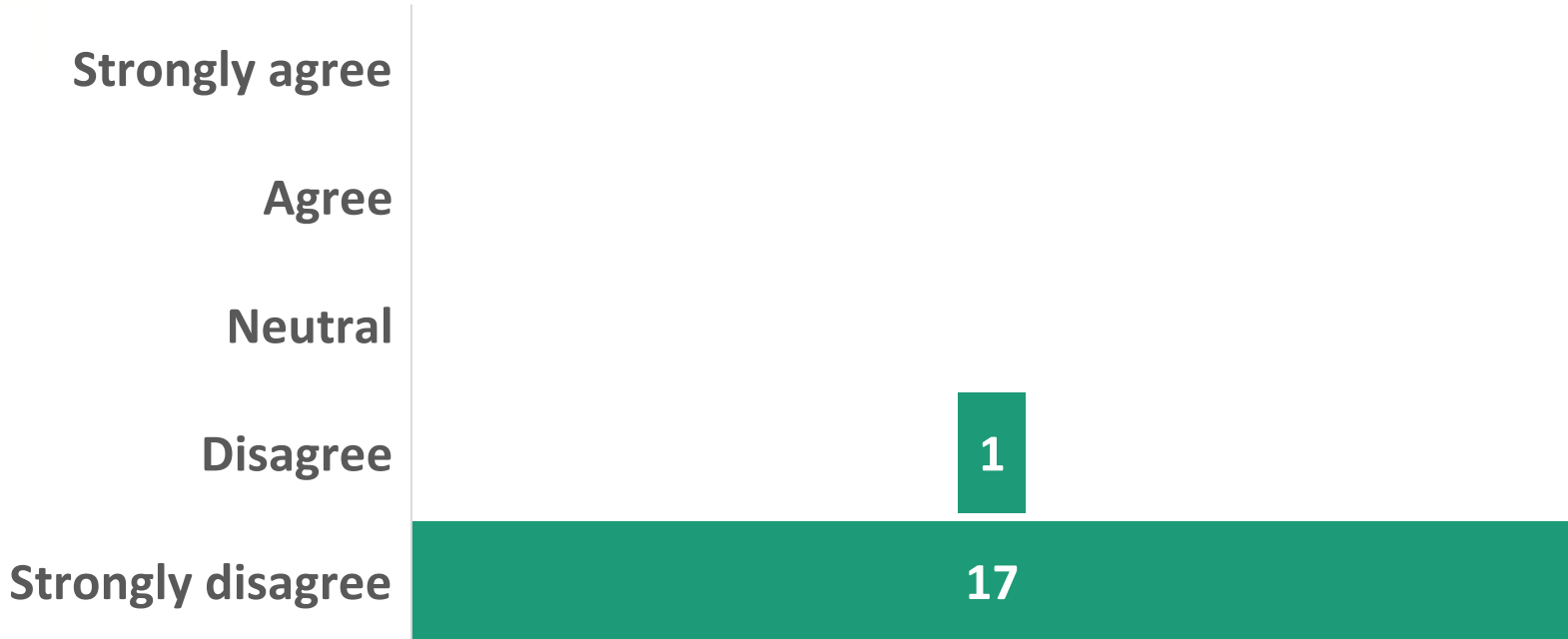


Bead placing exercise



Also guidelines, courses, YouTube videos & competitions for additional laparoscopic kit.

Have you ever felt this group as intrusive to your time away from work/training?



Conclusion:

Using **WhatsApp** to support at home laparoscopic skills development is **acceptable and helpful for O&G trainees**. Trainees in the group felt that the WhatsApp group **increased their use of simulation equipment** and practised the suggested exercises. No-one in the group felt being a member negatively impacted on their time away from work.

