

The emergency gynaecology bag: the key to delivering efficient emergency gynaecology care in A&E

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The provision of emergency gynaecology care in recent years revolves greatly around the important role of the emergency gynaecology or early pregnancy unit. These services have been transformative to the provision of gynaecology care through the provision of multidisciplinary care, the reduction of the A&E patient burden and empowering patients to access these services directly. Whilst these services are an invaluable resource, at times, emergency gynaecology care must be provided in the A&E department, whether due to the clinical condition of the patient, or during out of hours work

Objectives

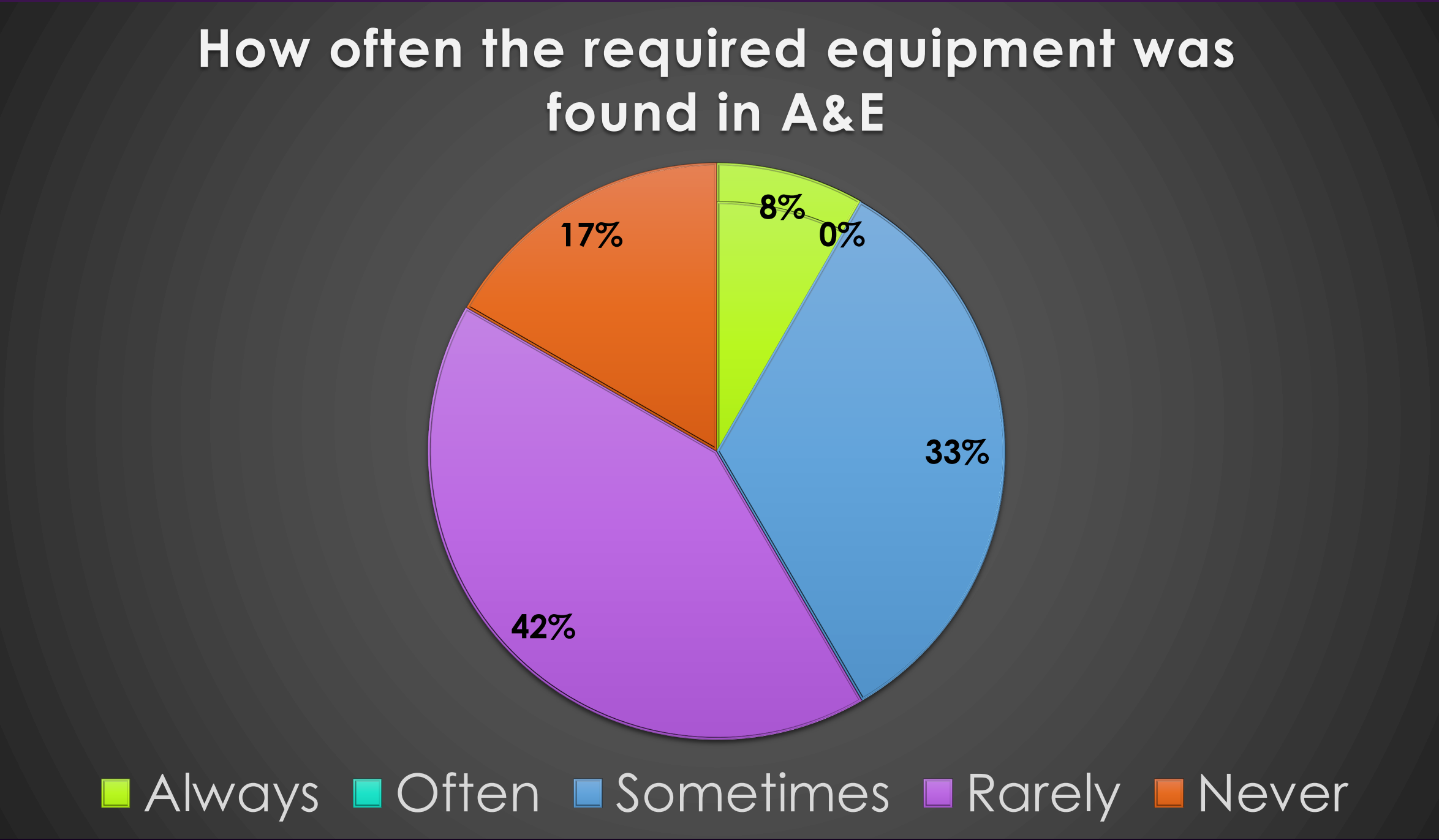
The provision of emergency gynaecology care in recent years revolves around the important role of the emergency gynaecology or early pregnancy units which have been transformative in the way this care is delivered. Patients that are assessed in A&E, due to their clinical condition or an out of hours presentation, are unable to benefit from these services, and their care can be hampered by a lack of availability of specialist gynaecology equipment. This study aimed to assess the need for this equipment, which items were required and the impact of a possible lack of availability on the attending clinician's time with the aim of assessing the potential improvement in this following the implementation of an emergency gynaecology bag.

Methods

A 6-question survey was distributed to all gynaecology doctors involved in the clinical care of patients in A&E. The questionnaire included details on how often doctors were able to find common items of emergency gynaecology equipment, the average amount of time spent sourcing this equipment and whether they felt a stocked bag with equipment would facilitate their care of patients in A&E. An emergency gynaecology bag was then implemented with the frequently requested items and the same survey was re-sent to assess whether there was a change in results.

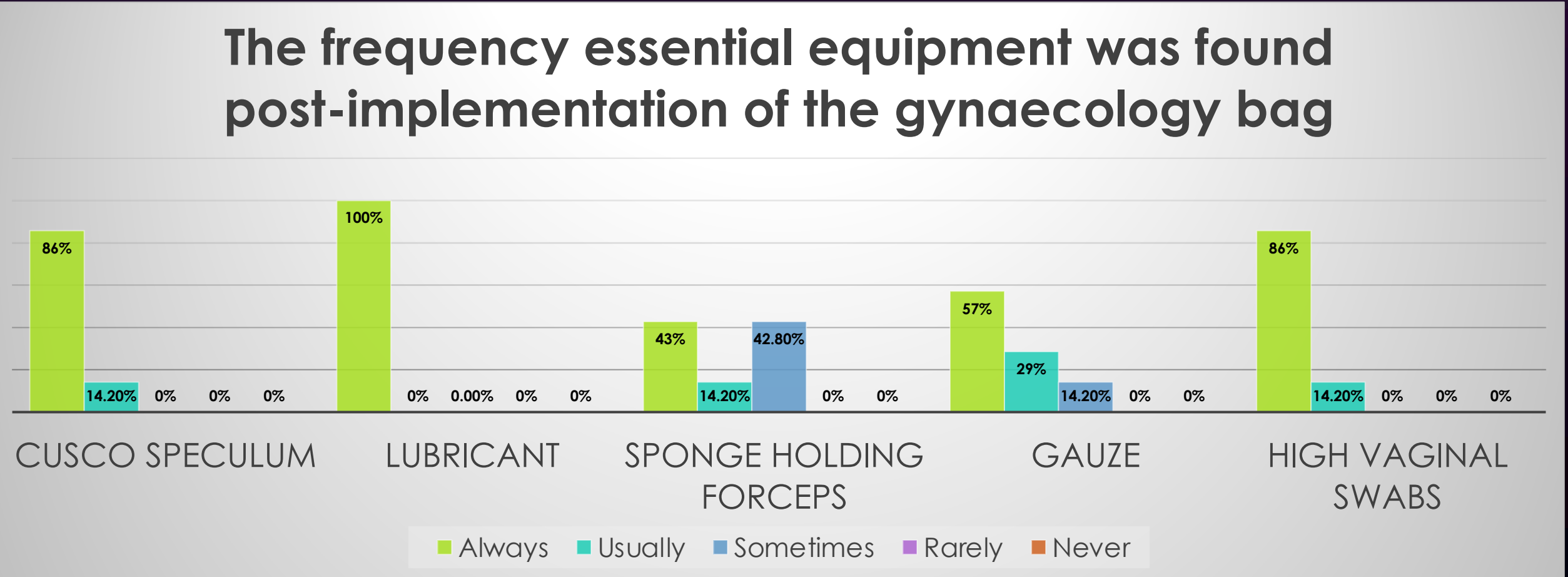
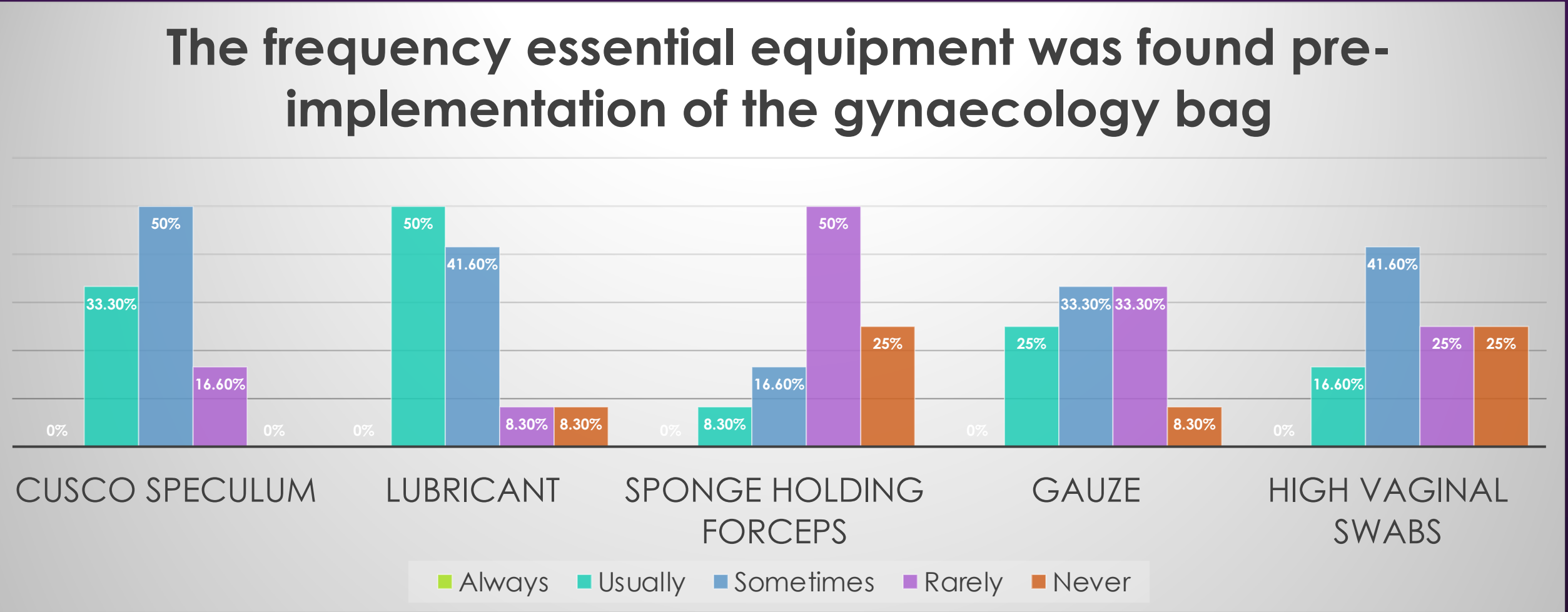
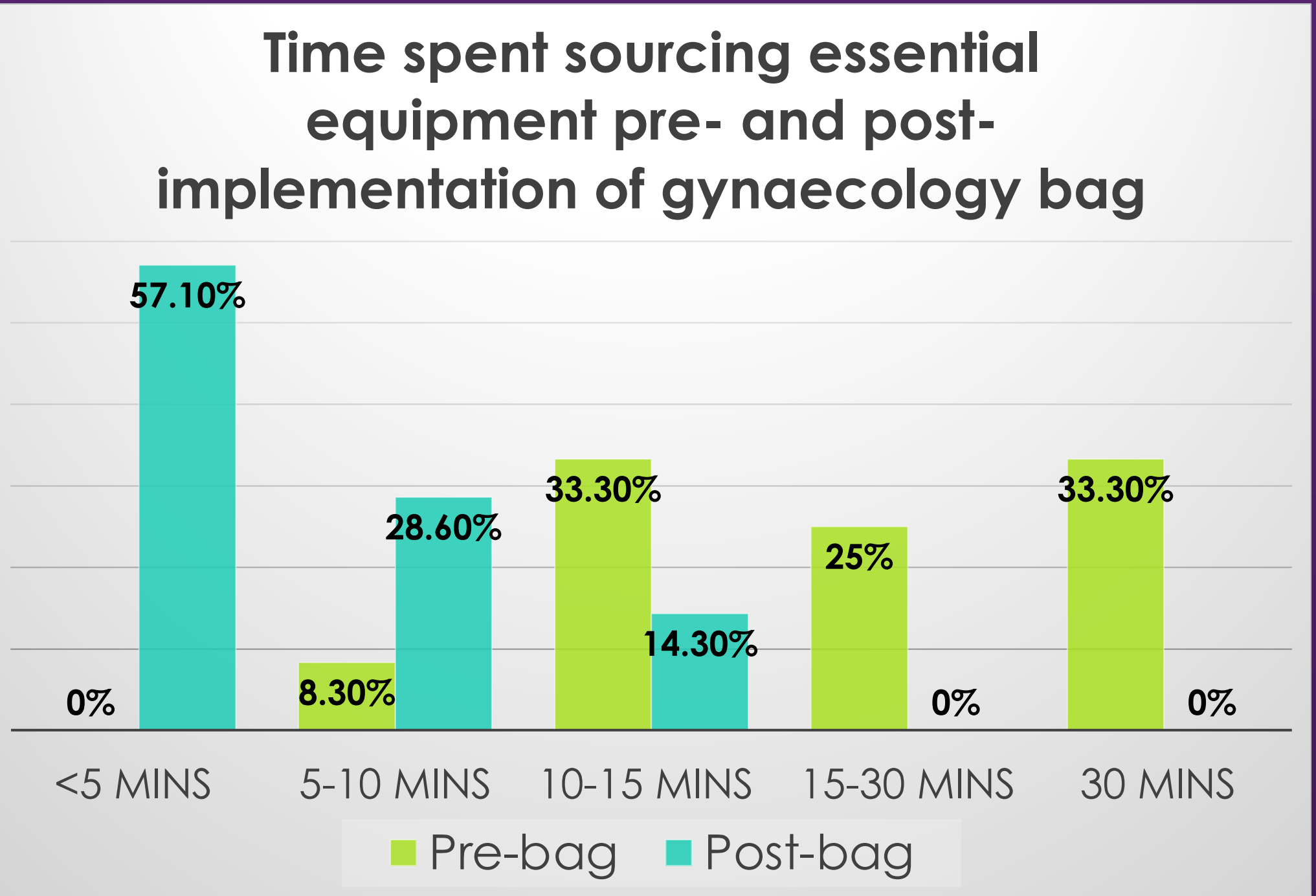
Initial results:

- Only 8% of those assessed were able to find the equipment required in A&E
- Commonly used gynaecology items such as a Cusco speculum, lubricant, Rampley's sponge holding forceps and gauze were only sometimes or rarely available
- 58% of respondents spent more than 15 minutes sourcing equipment, with 33% spending fore than 30 minutes.



Post-intervention results :

- Commonly used gynaecology items were always available
- 0% spent more than 15 minutes searching for equipment, with 100% spending less than 15 minutes.
- 85% found it useful to have an emergency gynaecology bag
- 85% found the bag helped to improve the care of patients in A&E



Conclusion

The care of patients in A&E could be improved by the provision of an emergency gynaecology bag. Having the required equipment readily available reduced physician time spent sourcing equipment and would subsequently reduce patient waiting times in A&E.

It is recognised however, that the ideal standard of care would be a well-stocked area for the provision of gynaecology care within A&E. Short of this, the emergency gynae bag provides a simple measure which can be easily implemented with recognisable positive effects.