

Background

Haemorrhage following thyroidectomy occurs in 1-2% of cases with major complications of airway obstruction and death. Recently updated guidelines by DAS, BAETS, and ENT UK highlight the importance of staff training and availability of emergency equipment to perform a standardised 8-step SCOOP procedure:

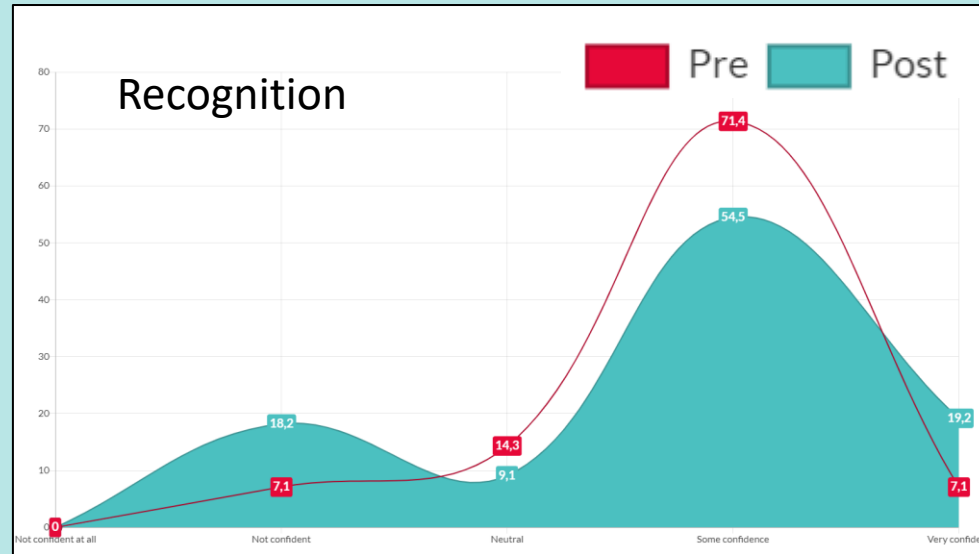
Skin exposure, **C**ut sutures, **O**pen skin, **O**pen muscles, **P**ack wound

Aims

To improve staff confidence in recognition and initial management of haematoma formation in theatre recovery areas following thyroidectomy.

Methods

1. Baseline survey of theatre recovery staff with care of thyroidectomy patients, including confidence in; recognition, management, equipment for haematoma evacuation.
2. Education including hands on use of SCOOP technique and equipment on mannikins. This was delivered to Clinical Educators who repeated training at departmental CPD.
3. Follow-up survey and audit of SCOOP box use.

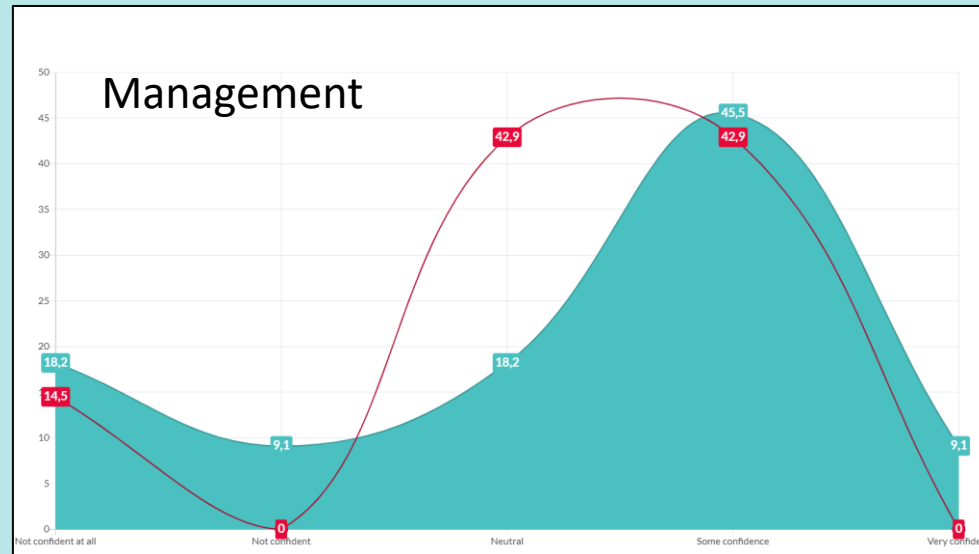


Results

There were 14 respondents to our initial survey, and 11 to follow-up survey. Our results show a slight increase in the confident/very confident responses to management of haematoma and increase in very confident responses to recognition. However, there was also an increase in the lesser confident responses to both questions post-teaching.

Improvements were seen in awareness of guidelines (63.6% vs 50%) and knowledge of equipment location (81.8% vs 71.4%).

Audit of SCOOP box presence with patient following thyroidectomy was 100% (7/7 cases).



Conclusions

There was already high confidence in both recognition and management of post-thyroidectomy haematoma. This may be due to familiarity with previous ENT surgeon's easily removable suture. The bi-modal range of responses post-teaching may reflect the turnover of new staff in theatre recovery and move to standardised wound closure and SCOOP technique. Teaching was well received (median rating 9/10) and results showed high interest in further training. This may consolidate learning and improve confidence further.