



Background

- The Vascular Nursing Skills Symposium is a specialized, educational event designed to enhance the clinical competence and confidence of nurses working in vascular care settings.
- A creative, educational opportunity was implemented to review important aspects of Vascular and Hybrid OR surgery with all staff members.
- It was determined that a positive experience with an educational activity may enhance learning and retention of the material.
- Using a creative approach provides a non-threatening atmosphere which results in better staff engagement and participation.
- This symposium brings together perioperative nursing professionals, clinical educators, vascular specialists, and advanced practitioners to provide hands-on training, evidence-based practice updates, and multidisciplinary perspectives on the management of patients undergoing vascular surgery.

Planning

- A multidisciplinary team approach was taken to create the Vascular Nursing Skills Symposium.
- The team actively participated in the planning, development, and the implementation of this creative, educational opportunity.
- The team collaborated with surgeons, Interventional Radiology staff and vendors to achieve a hands-on creative method of instruction.
- A list of equipment and supplies needed for this event was developed.
- The Symposium was developed at minimal cost to the Network.
- All disposable items used during the event were either expired or damaged.
- It took the team three months of planning prior to the go live date.



Goals

- By the conclusion of the symposium, the participants will gain refined technical skills and up-to-date knowledge that may be used to improve patient outcomes and promote excellence in vascular surgery.
- By the conclusion of the symposium, the participants will discuss emerging trends in endovascular procedures.
- By the conclusion of the symposium, participants will have an increase in confidence and competence in vascular procedures. This includes the proper handling of instruments that could potentially be utilized as well as vessel occluding techniques.



Implementation

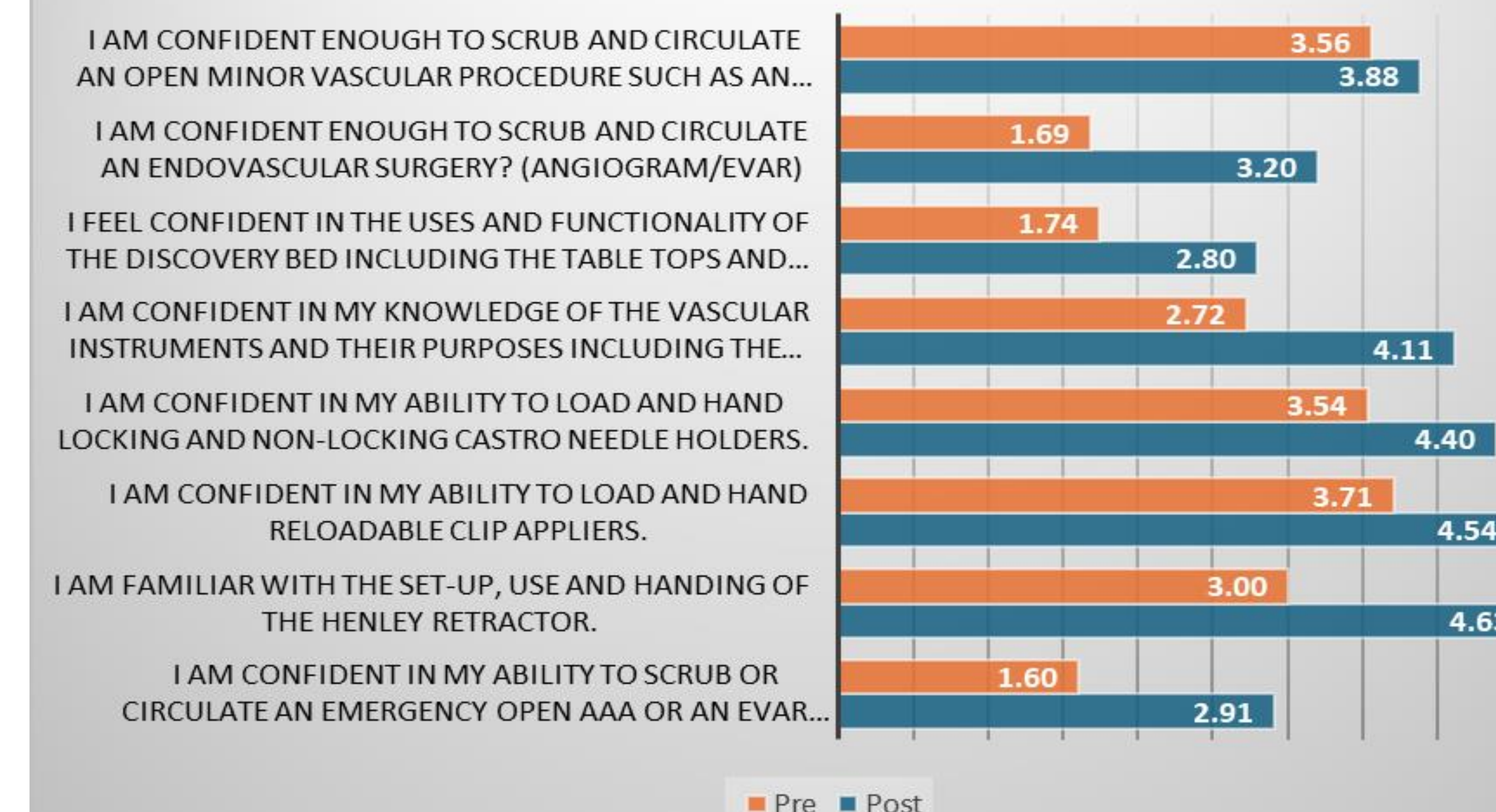
- A pre-survey was created and distributed to the participants prior to the start of the symposium.
- The symposium included four hours of instruction and hands-on experiences.
- The 4-hour day was divided into several 30-minute sessions:
 - Hybrid Room functionality
 - Vascular instrument review
 - Loading and passing vascular sutures and vessel occluding devices
 - Arteriogram wire management
- Hands-on skill sessions were held in the PACU.
- The Hybrid Operating Room was open and set up to review arteriograms, wire management and Hybrid Room functionality
- The participants were divided into small groups.
- This education primarily focused on the roles of the Registered Nurse and Surgical Technologist.
- The education was provided by current perioperative nursing professionals who are involved in Vascular and Hybrid OR surgeries, clinical educators, vascular specialists, Interventional Radiology Technicians and advanced practitioners.
- Each person participated independently.
- There was no conflict of interest or biases in those participating.

Team Members

- Dr. Calogero DiMaggio
- Dr. David Crouse
- Dr. Maggie Lin
- Barbara Puzzella RN
- Carol Steigerwalt RN
- Kelly Sawruk RN
- Joseph Keeler IR
- Erin Dashner IR
- Alexa Chaikowsky IR

Conclusions

Vascular Skills Symposium Pre/Post Survey Data



Evaluation

- A post evaluation was completed at the conclusion of the Symposium.
- The staff verbalized both positive and negative aspects of the event.
 - "Everything was incredibly helpful, but I really found learning about wire management to be very valuable."
 - "The hands-on experience was great! I am one who needs to see and do, and this was SO helpful."
 - "We need to do more simulation labs, but this was absolutely a great and enjoyable day!"
- Recommendations for future sessions were also communicated.

References

- Jack S, Li MN, Conway A. Implementation of a blended- Learning Perioperative Nursing Education Program in Canada. AORN April 2024; 119(4): 248-260.
- Ward L, Gordon A, Kirkman A. Innovative Education Strategies in the Perioperative Setting. AORN Journal. February 2024;119(2):120-133.