

Optimizing the Onset- Innovations in First Time Surgical Case Starts

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WHAT WE LEARNED

First case on time starts (FCOTS) are a key metric in determining operating room efficiency. Starting surgical cases on time prevents increased costs, delays in subsequent procedures and can improve staff and physician morale. FCOTS need to be a complete team approach and achieving a high percentage of FCOTS is indicative of good resource management and high functioning team coordination.

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

- Implement strategies to achieve a 70% first case on time starts
- Improve first case on time starts for all operating room cases scheduled before 9:00 am

BACKGROUND

- Surgeon dissatisfaction due to numerous delays in first case surgical start times which affected subsequent scheduled cases
- Staff concerns over delays due to physician lateness
- Increase overtime being paid for cases running beyond scheduled block time

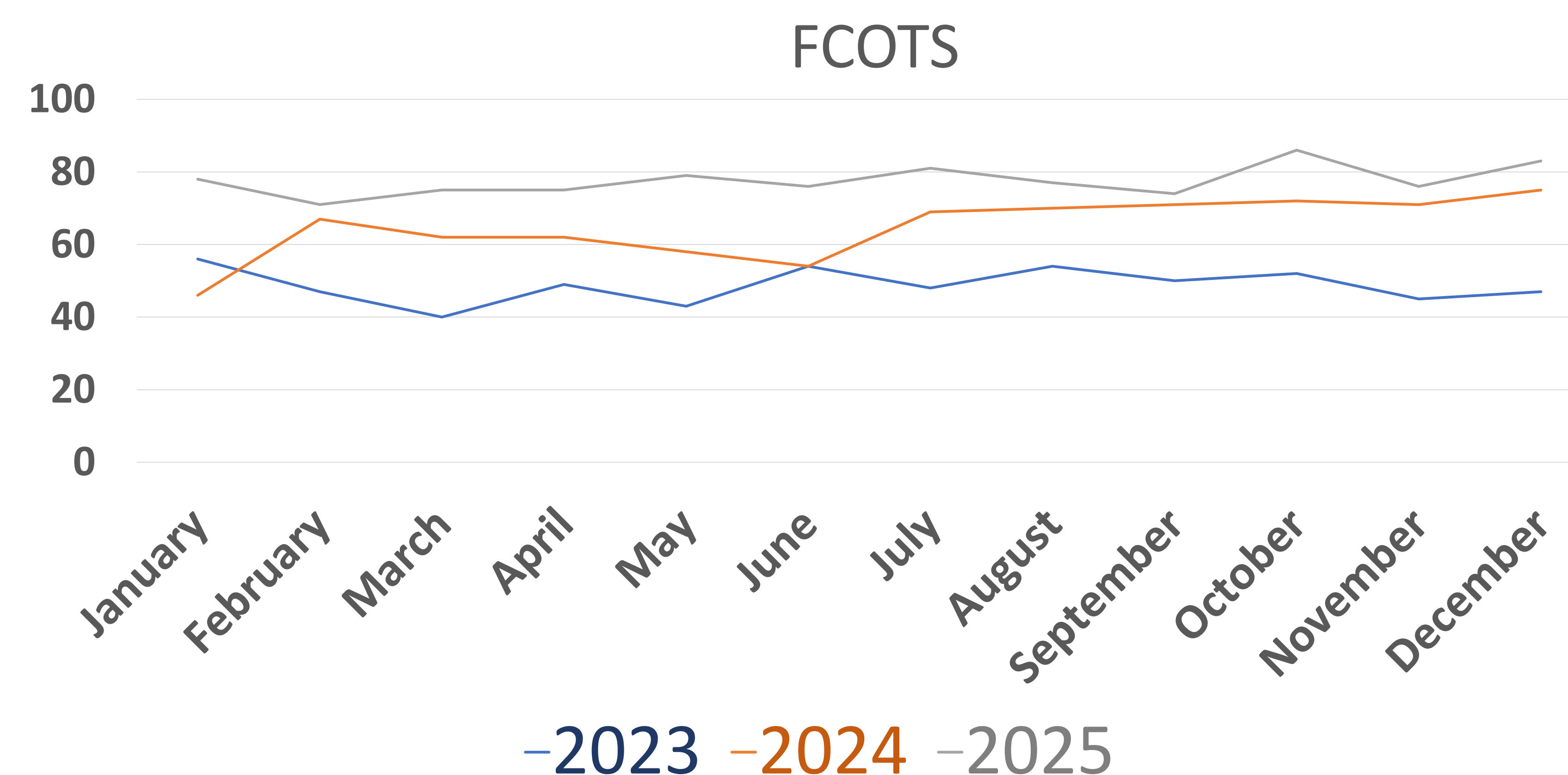
EVIDENCE

- Identifying inefficiencies and creating solutions through teamwork help to improve FCOTS
- Improving FCOTS not only improves efficiency but can help save the hospital money through better utilization of OR time and case mix

IMPLEMENTATION

- Data was gathered in EPIC detailing any first case delay where the patient was not in the room by scheduled start time
- Delay reasons were categorized and strategies put in place to make improvements
- Surgeons held accountable for being on time and could lose 7:30 am start time for lateness
- Staff are entered into a drawing for a gift card to the café for meeting FCOTS goal

RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS

- Using a multidisciplinary approach and communicating among all disciplines fostered a team approach for improvements in FCOTS
- Steady improvements were made and goals were achieved. For next year, we will set an 80% target and continue pursuing innovations to further improve in-room times
- Communication at DOS meetings were crucial to getting physician buy in for arriving on time

CHALLENGES

- Surgeons continue to arrive late for the first case of the day
- Patients are nervous, many have questions to be answered and need to use the rest room
- OR delays continue due to vendor, equipment, staff and large set up in the rooms



References

