

# Sharing Knowledge and Increasing Confidence in Organ Procurements

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## Background and Purpose

Organ procurement is recognized as an emotionally demanding and highly stressful process. To ensure procedural efficiency, it is essential that the team members involved be both confident and well organized. This facilitates the recovery of the organs and the subsequent success of the recipient's surgery. After consulting operating room personnel, surgeons, and the local Organ Procurement Organization, several areas requiring focused education were identified. As this operation may be performed at any time of day and by either local or visiting surgical teams, the need for effective knowledge distribution and confidence is critical. In response, a comprehensive educational program was developed to increase the knowledge and confidence of individuals in the scrub and circulating roles.

Abbreviations: Donation after Cardiac/Circulatory Death (DCD), Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP), Donation after Brain/Neurologic Death (DBD/DND)

## Methods of Teaching

- Slide presentations were developed for both experienced staff and orientees and were modified to align with the existing knowledge base of each group.
- In-service sessions were conducted to present the slide materials and to provide explanations of typical room and bed setups.
- These sessions are scheduled biannually for orientees and annually for experienced staff.
- A poster presentation on *Organ Procurement and Care of the Organ Donor* was created for the local perioperative nursing conference.
- A reference binder was assembled including each type of organ donation (DCD +/- NRP vs. DBD), with dedicated subsections outlining expectations and responsibilities for both the scrub and circulating roles.

## Staff Feedback

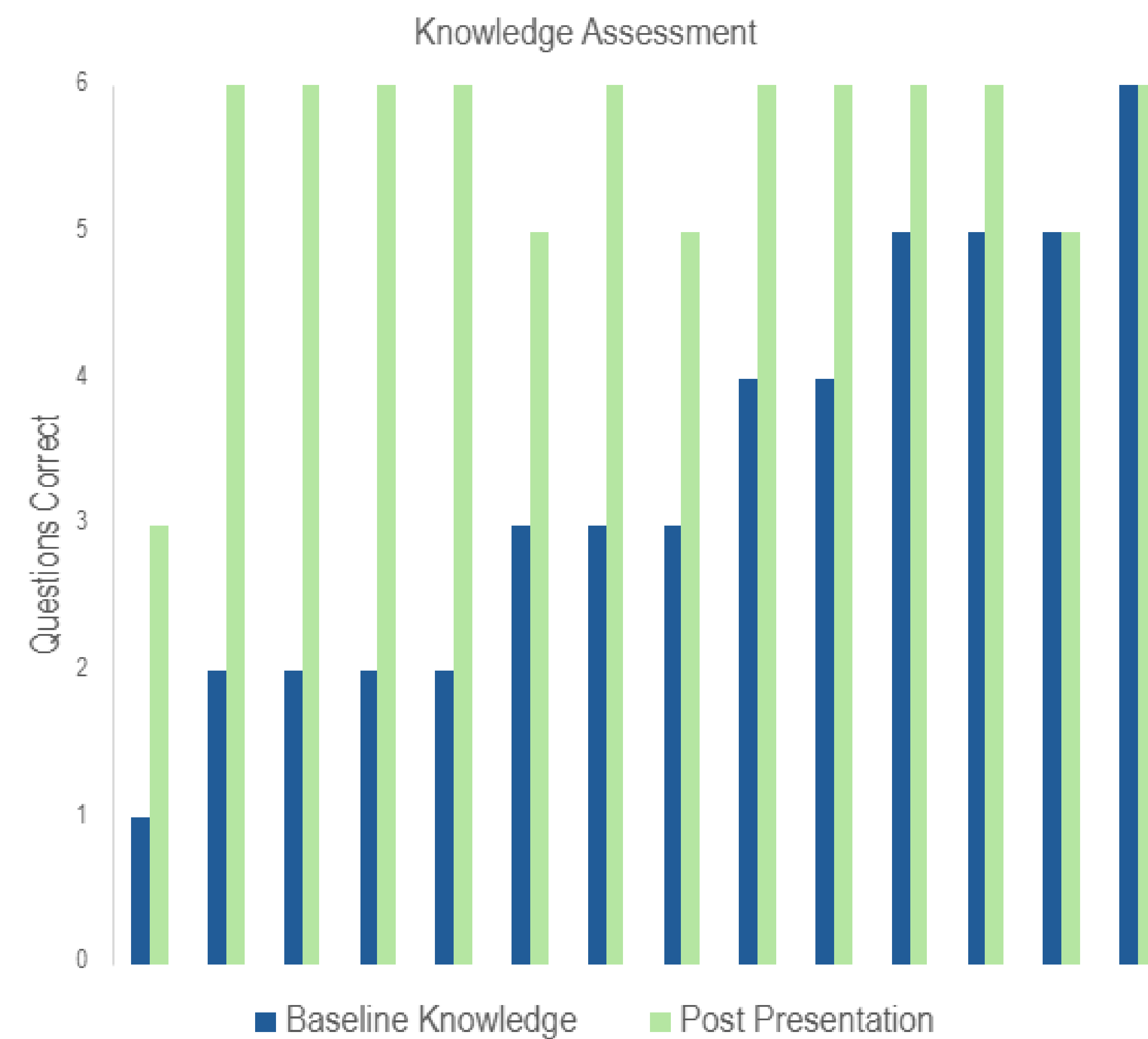
- "I've used your guide and it was EXTREMELY helpful! I work weekend contract and we get a lot of DCD's on Sundays. I never got to do one while on orientation or even when there was extra staff around to help, so your guide was invaluable."
- "I had used a couple times on Saturdays and find it incredibly useful.. I was overjoyed to have that extra help! "

## Development and Implementation

- It was observed that the existing reference system was not adequate and greater accessibility of information was needed. A reference binder that could be brought into the operating room and readily utilized was identified as the most effective solution.
- The binder will be available in the charge office for use by any staff member who requires it.
- Input from colleagues was utilized to determine what information should be included, and information was organized to be as user friendly as possible using tabs for each section. Additional feedback was provided by the local Organ Procurement Organization and from surgeons, and relevant statistics and data were obtained from the UNOS website.
- A pre- and post-education quiz was developed to target the most critical components of the donation process for all staff to understand. Responses were evaluated before and after the presentation to assess growth in knowledge and confidence.

## Knowledge and Confidence Assessment

- Questions in the pre- and post-test were selected to emphasize the most important knowledge objectives of the presentation, thereby priming learners to focus on these key elements.
  - n= 14: 13 nurses, 1 scrub technologist
  - For confidence calculation, one participant was excluded as they did not complete both surveys
- A statistically significant increase in knowledge was observed following the presentation ( $p < .0001$ ).
- A statistically significant increase in confidence was demonstrated after the presentation ( $p < .0001$ ).



Statistic	Value
t	5.81
p-value	0.00006
Interpretation	Highly Significant

Question	1	2	3	4	5
Q1 I know the difference between donation types (DBD/DCD/NRP)	1	2	3	4	5
Q2 I feel able to scrub a procurement	1	2	3	4	5
Q3 I feel able to circulate a procurement	1	2	3	4	5 N/A
Q4 I know what pans are needed for a procurement	1	2	3	4	5
Q5 I know what equipment is needed	1	2	3	4	5
Q6 I know what medications are needed	1	2	3	4	5



Question	t-statistic	p-value (two-tailed)	Interpretation
1	6.19	0.0001	Highly significant
2	3.42	0.006	Significant
3	3.3	0.0073	Significant
4	6.63	< 0.0001	Highly significant
5	7.49	< 0.00005	Highly significant
6	9.38	< 0.00001	Extremely significant

References:  
1) Open AI. (2025). ChatGPT (December 2 version 5.1) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com>