

Perianesthesia Fellowship: A Supplement to Orientation

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Introduction to Clinical Question

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact nursing, especially specialty areas, to this day. With many veteran critical care nurses having retired and younger ones pursuing advanced practice degrees taking them away from the bedside, the experienced pool of ideal candidates for PACU positions has become strained across our organization. It was identified that many new PeriAnesthesia nurses, without a critical care background, often lack the degree of critical thinking required to be as successful as they could be following the completion of orientation. How do we, as Educators, help nurses develop the necessary critical thinking skills? With this question in mind shared knowledge deficits were identified by PeriAnesthesia unit leaders and directly incorporated into a new System-wide PeriAnesthesia Fellowship curriculum.

Three Fellowship objectives were subsequently established. The first objective was to develop a curriculum within a structured PeriAnesthesia Fellowship that is completed post-orientation with an advanced focus on all phases of care using didactics, clinical application, and simulation. The second objective was to promote and retain dedicated nurses who successfully complete the fellowship program. Finally, the third objective was to produce a highly trained nurse aligning with the scope and current ASPAN practices of Perianesthesia nursing, who is able to provide effective, efficient, and quality patient care therefore leading to improved patient outcomes.

P	I	C	O
Problem	Intervention or exposure	Comparison	Outcome
Seasoned nurses retired following COVID-19 pandemic leaving novice nurses lacking or having minimal critical care background to care for patients in the Perianesthesia setting.	Creation of Perianesthesia Fellowship for novice Perianesthesia nurses	Pre-survey, mid-survey, post-survey to assess confidence, competence and knowledge	Improved competence and confidence level

Summary of Current Evidence, Strengths & Concerns

There are few publications regarding PeriAnesthesia Fellowships. Of those that are referenced, the great impact of retiring seasoned nurses has been noted. Many new nurses to Perianesthesia lack a critical care background and the need is for these nurses to develop the critical thinking and hands-on skills necessary to care for critical care patients. The Fellowships that were created had a positive impact not only on the development of the novice nurses, but also on recruitment and retention. The confidence level of these nurses improved as well.

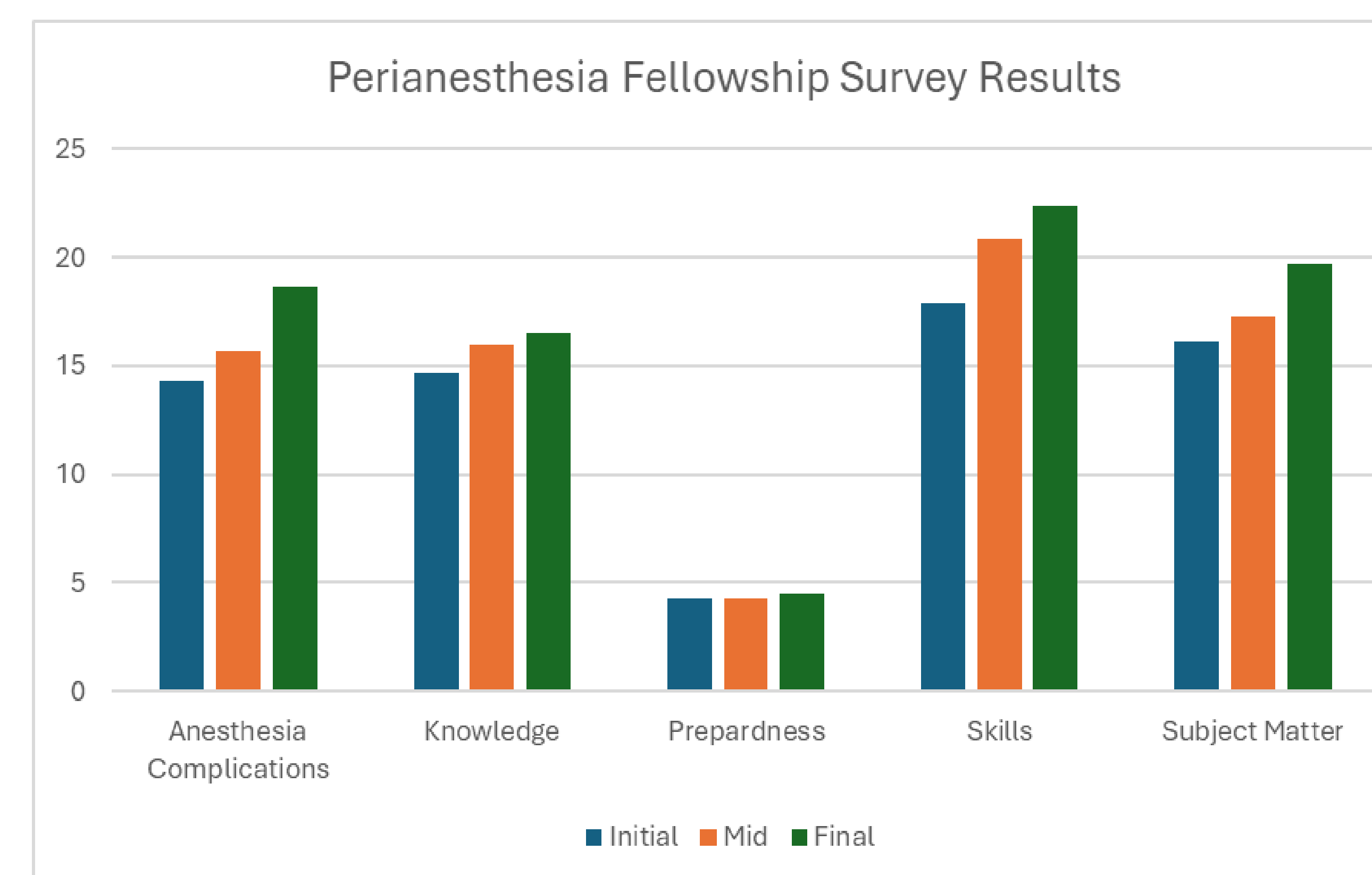
A concern of the current evidence is that there is minimal information regarding the creation of PeriAnesthesia Fellowships and the impact. Those that have been completed thus far have been positive, but more information in this area would be beneficial.

Methods

After identifying the developmental needs of novice nurses, the Perianesthesia Fellowship was created. Interactive education was provided through simulation, didactic (including polls, word clouds, etc.) scenarios, and hands-on activities. Delivering education in an interactive way allowed for the Fellowship participants to be more engaged and meet their colleagues from the system thereby creating relationships.

To determine the effectiveness of the Perianesthesia Fellowship three surveys were completed by the participants: a pre-survey, a mid-survey, and a final survey. Each survey gauged the comfort and confidence level of the participants using the Likert Scale. The participants were also able to express their thoughts in an open-ended question regarding improvements for the Fellowship. Questions were placed into five categories: Anesthesia Complications, Knowledge, Preparedness, Skills, and Subject Matter. Questions regarding comfort/confidence level were asked and not limited to Malignant Hyperthermia, Local Anesthetic System Toxicity, and anesthesia medications.

The surveys showed improvement in all five categories from the initial to the final survey. In the final survey participants were able to suggest recommendations for future Perianesthesia Fellowship classes. Suggestions were to cover more in-depth Malignant Hyperthermia and anesthesia medications, and to combine procedures in which the care of the post-op patient is similar.

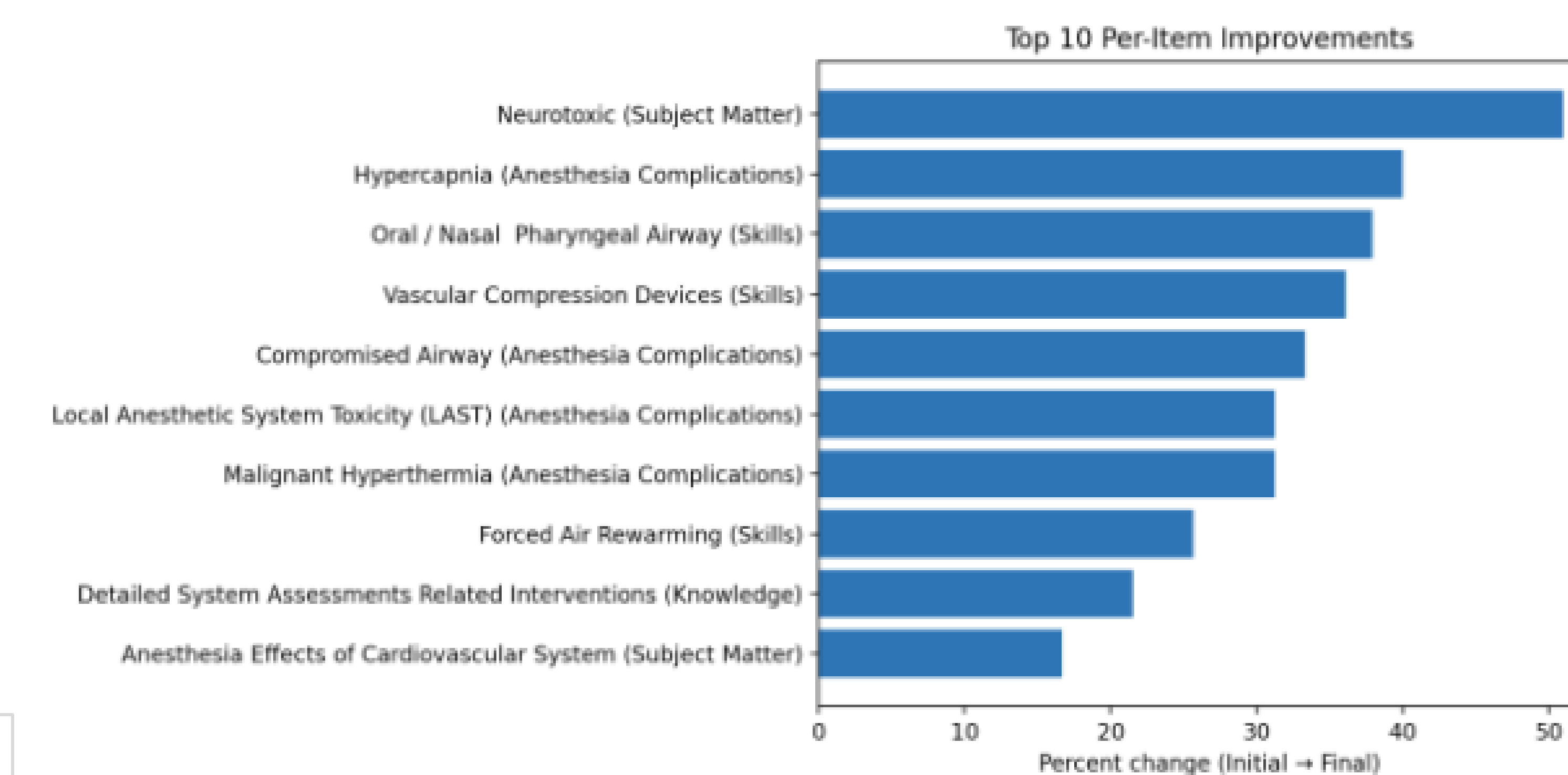


Limitations

- A limitation of the study performed is that only one cohort has completed the Fellowship.
- Despite only one cohort completion, the results have been positive.

Recommendations for Nursing Practice

- Adjust the curriculum based on the results of the surveys.
- For novices nurses a PeriAnesthesia Fellowship program can be highly beneficial to improving skills, knowledge, and confidence level.



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