

Increasing Patient Comfort: Bed vs. Stretcher

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Background

Patient pain and comfort can be enhanced using non-pharmacological interventions

- In addition to post-surgical pain, patients frequently experience discomfort from lying on a stretcher
- Staff noticed that once a patient was transferred to a hospital bed, they verbalized relief
- Staff dissatisfaction also existed around the amount of physical labor and time required to 1) search for a bed and 2) utilizing a team approach to transfer from stretchers to beds, taking time away from providing care

PICO: “For post-operative patients (P) how does placing a patient on a hospital bed (I) versus a stretcher in the Operating Room (C) affect patient comfort and staff satisfaction in the Recovery Room (O)?”



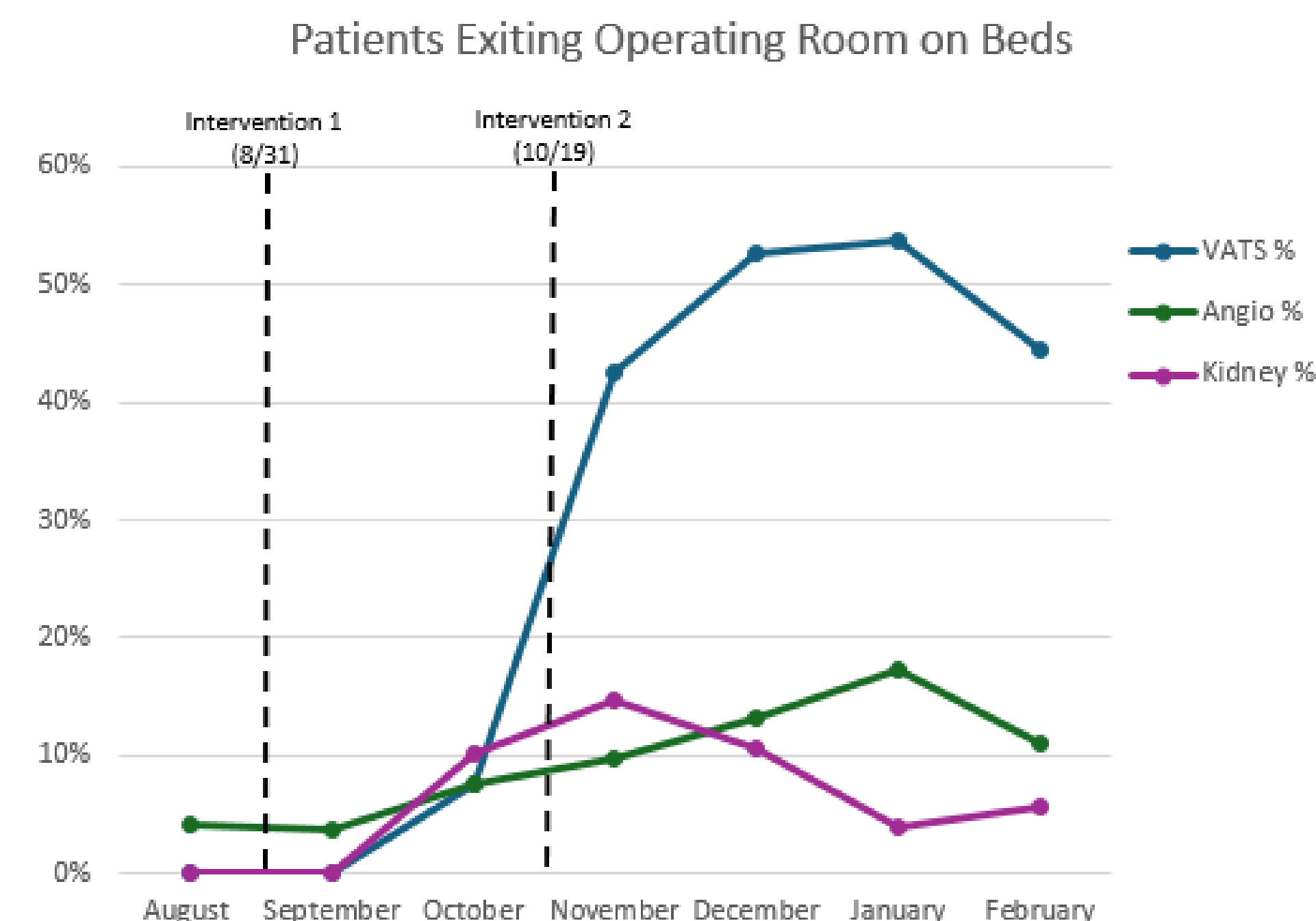
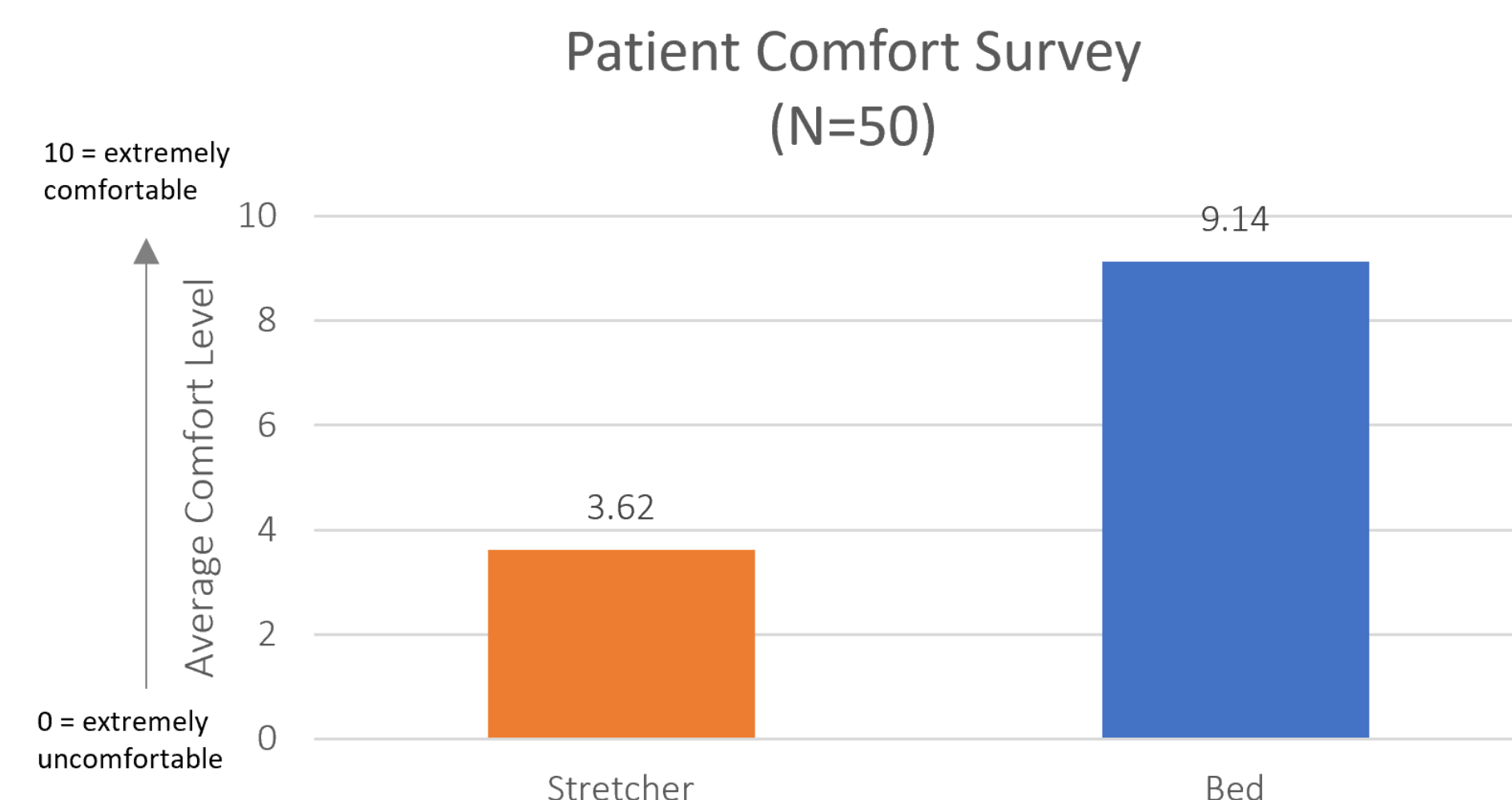
Methods

- Patient & Staff Satisfaction**
 - Patients rated level of comfort from 0 (extremely uncomfortable) to 10 (extremely comfortable)
 - Surveyed staff to rate level of satisfaction with number of patients arriving to PACU on stretchers vs. beds
- Analyzed 3 Surgical Groups**
 - Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (VATS), Vascular (Angiogram/Angioplasty), & Kidney Transplant
 - Groups based on: typical high post-operative pain, nature of surgery and/or extended bedrest requirements
- Collaboration**
 - The Peri-Operative team tracked the number of patients coming out of the OR on stretchers
 - Showed Operating Room leadership the data and discussed the implementation of our initiative
- Monitoring Practice**
 - PACU Business Assistants performed a tally on all patients arriving to PACU from the OR on stretcher vs. bed
 - Intervention 1: Project leaders met with Peri-Operative Team to discuss goals of project and processes
 - Intervention 2: Revisited the discussion to explore barriers and reinforce new processes

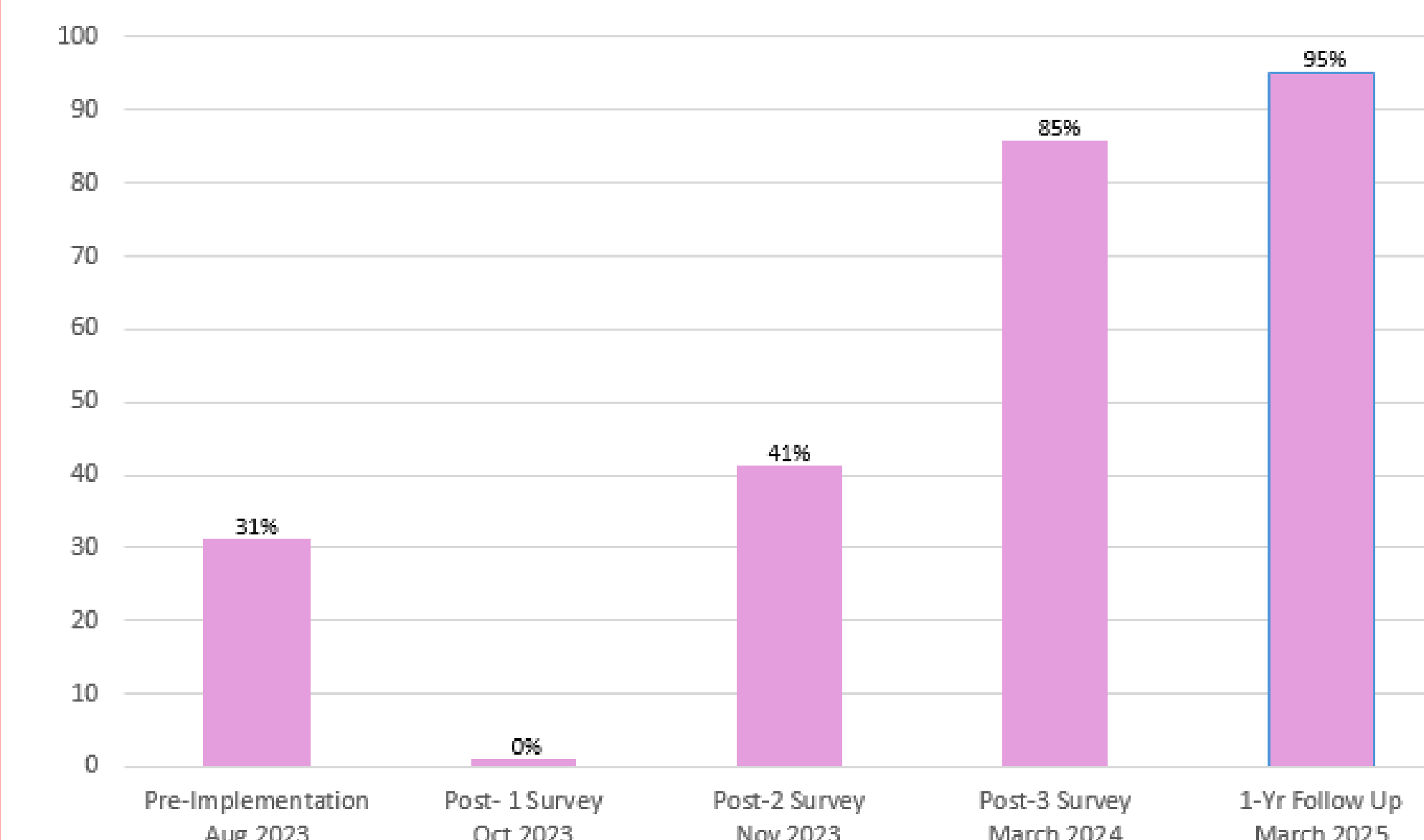


Results

Demonstrated improvement in both patient and staff satisfaction with the implementation of putting patients on beds directly in the Operating Room

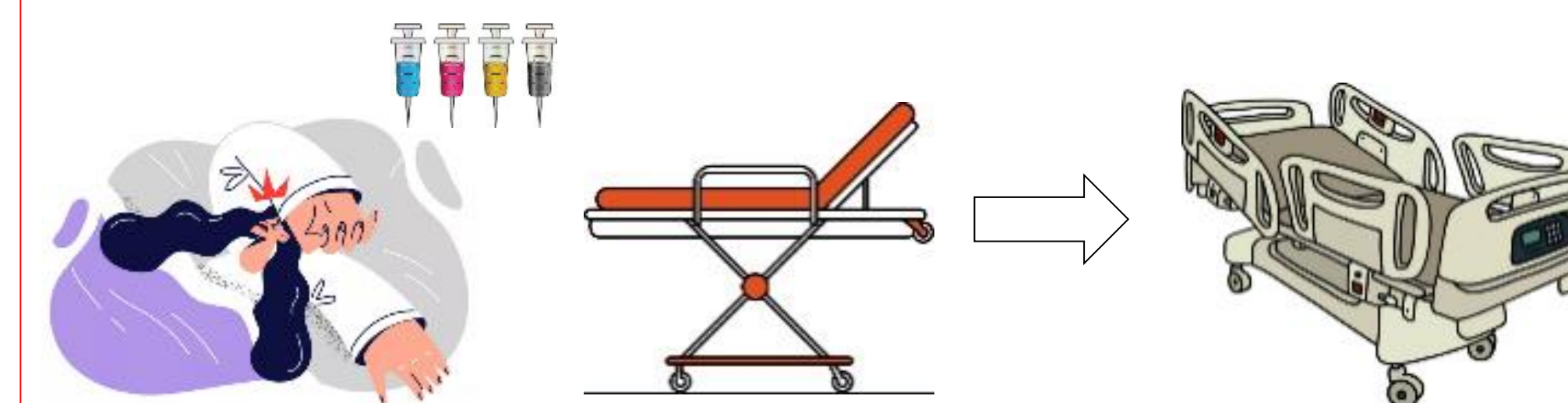


Bed vs. Stretcher Staff Satisfaction



Conclusion

- Patients transferred from stretchers to beds were more comfortable. We believe this allows for longer periods of rest and less opioid pain medication
- Further studies could show the added benefits of decrease in the amount of linen used (reducing hospital costs) and employee harm with less patient transfers
- Collaboration between the Recovery Room and Operating Room staff will be required to continue to see the benefits, as evidenced by our post one-year staff satisfaction survey
- Implementing this practice with further surgical patients would lead to increased patient comfort and staff satisfaction



References

Fan, M., & Chen, Z. (2020). A systematic review of non-pharmacological interventions used for pain relief after orthopedic surgical procedures. *Experimental and therapeutic medicine*, 20(5), 36. <https://doi.org/10.3892/etm.2020.9163>