

Awake Fibreoptic Intubation – Knowledge & Experience Audit

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This dual cycle project was intended to evaluate local experience and promote the delivery of best practice within anaesthesia. It specifically relates to securing the airway in situations where difficulties with airway management are predicted. In these cases awake intubation may be undertaken and is usually achieved using a fibreoptic laryngoscope rather than by tracheal intubation following induction of anaesthesia.

The NCEPOD report published in 1998 stated that several anaesthetists working in a department should be trained for, and competent at, awake fibreoptic intubations (AFOI)¹. Additionally the fourth National Audit Project (NAP4) stated that AFOI should be used whenever indicated and therefore requires that anaesthetic departments and individual anaesthetists ensure such a service is readily available².

METHOD:

- 2008 an audit of local experience and knowledge was undertaken in the form of a clinician survey.
- Findings identified deficits and a local training program was developed and implemented in 2009 to address these.
- 2014 the same survey was repeated to evaluate current experience and knowledge and to evaluate the training delivered.

STAFF SURVEY 1 (2008, 3pages) →



Overcoming the barriers & perceptions

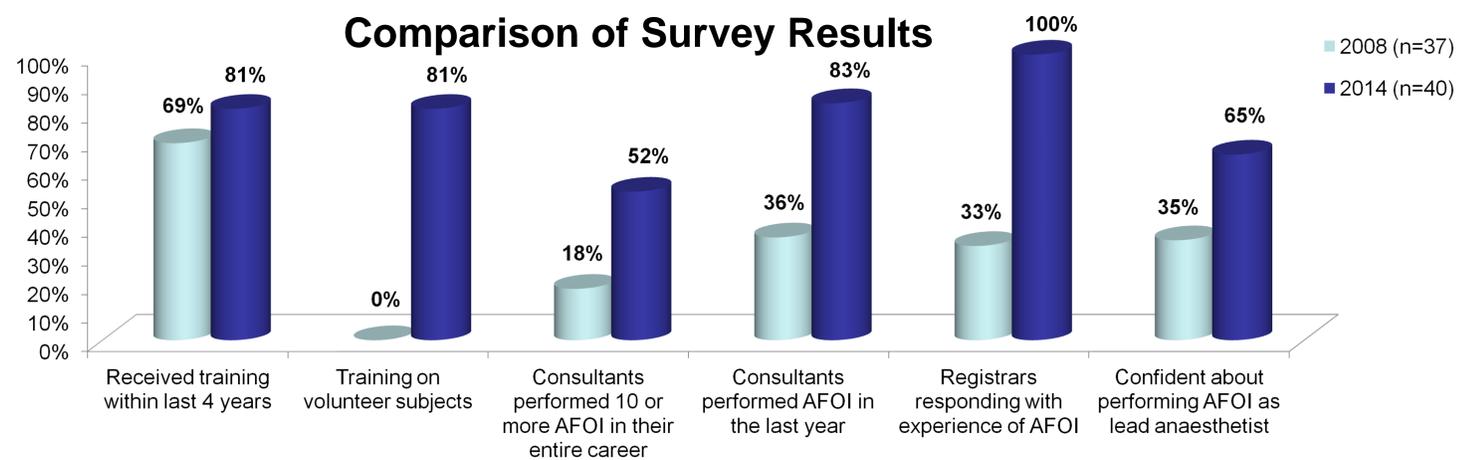
- Lack of clinician experience**
 - Gain skills: training (awake subjects)
 - Maintain skills: look for indications to use technique
 - Join other consultants if opportunity arises
- Unpleasant for the patient**
 - Become skilled at technique
 - Sedation (eg. Remifentanyl)
 - Meticulous local anaesthesia
- Disruption to theatre list**
 - Create culture of using AFOI
 - Equipment available
 - Checklist for drugs, etc.

Action to address findings from 2008 survey:

- ✓ Develop and introduce an in-house training course using staff volunteer subjects



STAFF SURVEY 2 (2014) ↓



Conclusions

- 2nd cycle staff survey results evidenced that, since the introduction of the training course, not only has confidence in performing AFOI increased, but that AFOI is being performed more frequently.
- 2nd cycle results indicates a higher local skill set which promotes best practice and supports effective risk management.
- Majority of consultants have now attended the AFOI course, and can continue to attend it on a regular basis to ensure that their skills and confidence in AFOI remain updated. Registrars rotating into the Trust will continue to be offered a place on the course.
- Improved compliance with NCEPOD recommendations was achieved through a baseline audit, identifying and addressing areas for development and then re-auditing (closing the audit loop)