

COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE USING MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PAEDIATRIC SIMULATION

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BACKGROUND

- COVID-19 is a new virus about which relatively little is known, particularly in children.
- In order to help clinicians navigate the challenges posed by this, the RCPCH (Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health) has published a series of recommendations and guidance.
 - Within this, they advocate the use of simulation to help instill best practice.
 - Our aim was to incorporate these recommendations into local practice.

METHODS:

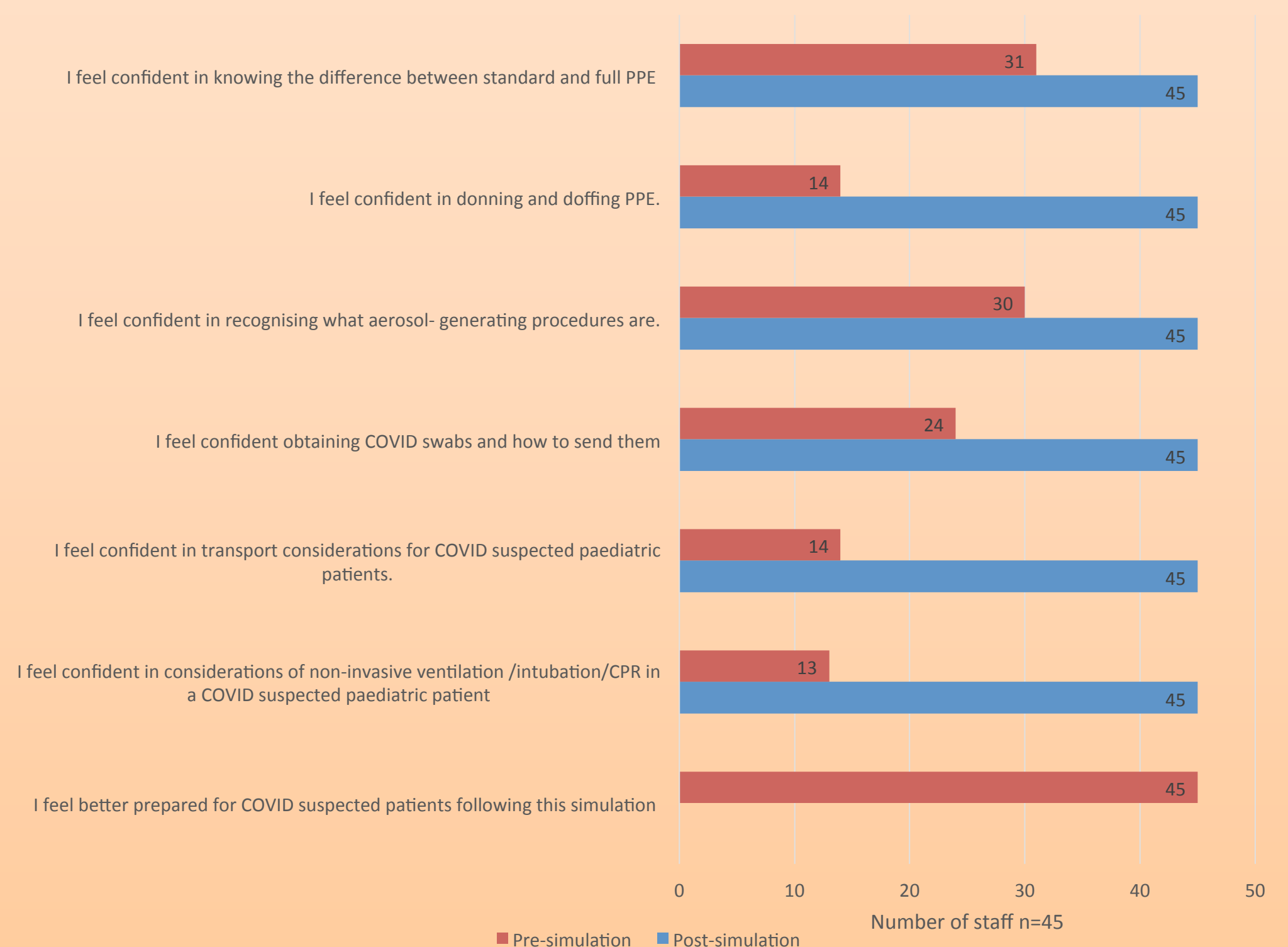
- ◆ We created a low fidelity simulation following the journey of a COVID-19 suspected paediatric patient within the hospital.
- ◆ The SIM lab mimicked our unit and covered the patient's A+E review, transfer to the ward and then their subsequent clinical deterioration.
- ◆ Low fidelity made it easy to implement efficiently, vital at a time whereby skilling up quickly was a must.
- ◆ They were run in small groups of 4-5 attendees to enable social-distancing in 1.5 hour sessions.
- ◆ The scenario practiced:
 - Donning and doffing personal protection equipment (PPE)
 - Discussions regarding full and standard PPE
 - Concept of clean and contaminated areas
 - Safe handling of patient samples
 - Aerosol generating procedures
 - Ideal patient transfer and resuscitation.



RESULTS AND FEEDBACK

45 paediatric staff members attended the simulation sessions (6 consultants, 24 junior doctors, 1 ward manager, 5 ED (emergency department) nurses and 9 paediatric ward nurses) over a 4-day period.

A pre-session questionnaire was provided assessing their confidence levels in various COVID-19 related skills and knowledge. This was re-evaluated immediately following the session. Results demonstrated that 100% of staff felt more confident in all areas.



DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Discussions between ED and ward staff highlighted that better communication was required as to where best to place admitted patients according to their COVID-19 risk. This is now a mandated component of the admission handover.
- ED staff had an accessible location of full PPE for emergencies, which triggered the ward staff to create their own, 'full PPE emergency grab bag'.
- It was also reflected that it would be useful to have a COVID-19 senior lead during this time, to help keep staff up to date

We recommend the use of multidisciplinary COVID-19 simulation as part of robust preparations for paediatric units during this unfamiliar time, as well as to help generate bespoke unit improvements.