

# A project to improve the quality of preoperative assessment for emergency laparotomy in a DGH

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

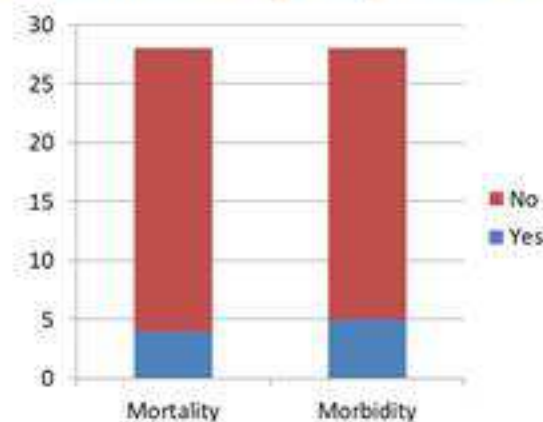


C Martin<sup>1</sup>, S Shevlin<sup>1</sup>, C Jamison<sup>2</sup>

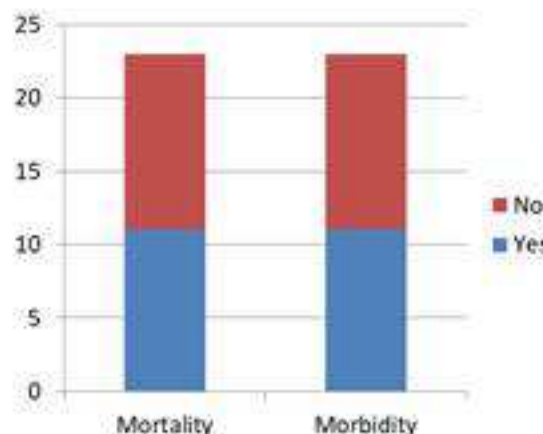
This project was designed to evaluate the way in which emergency laparotomy patients are cared for in our hospital. In a pilot audit we discovered the quality of preoperative assessment (specifically risk documentation) was less than ideal and designed a simple data collection form to improve this risk calculation and ensure evidence of this discussion was recorded in the notes. P-POSSUM was suggested at the assessment tool of choice (as in NELA) but the use of any documentation of risk was acceptable.

After education at the monthly audit meeting and the introduction of the emergency laparotomy form it is clearly seen that both the number of patients appropriately assessed using a risk calculator and the proportion of those patients assessed by consultants improved significantly.

Patient assessment documented preoperatively

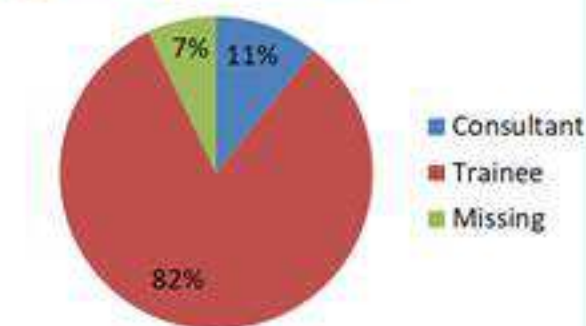


Pre intervention

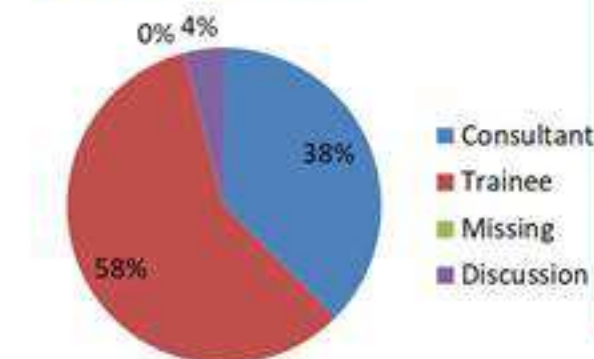


Post intervention

Patient assessment by grade of assessor



Pre intervention



Post intervention

In the future we plan to incorporate this form into a pathway for emergency laparotomy patients, to streamline imaging, timely theatre availability, and improve access to critical care.

<sup>1</sup>Specialist Trainee, <sup>2</sup>Consultant, Anaesthetic Dept, Ulster Hospital, SEHSCT