



# Needs Assessment: Driving Oncological Emergency Education

## BACKGROUND

- “An oncological emergency is a clinical condition resulting from a structural or metabolic change caused by cancer or its treatment that requires immediate medical intervention to prevent loss of life” (Tan, 2002, p.182).
- Delayed or missed recognition may result in catastrophic consequences:
  - Irreversible, functional loss
  - Severe system compromise
  - Increased mortality (Butterworth, 2008).
- Knowledge of potential emergency situations affecting cancer patients is essential for all nurses (Butterworth, 2008) but especially for new graduate nurses (Esplen et al., 2018).

## PURPOSE

- The purpose of the project was to determine the baseline knowledge of Oncology and Float Pool RNs regarding oncological emergencies and design and deliver education to meet knowledge deficits.

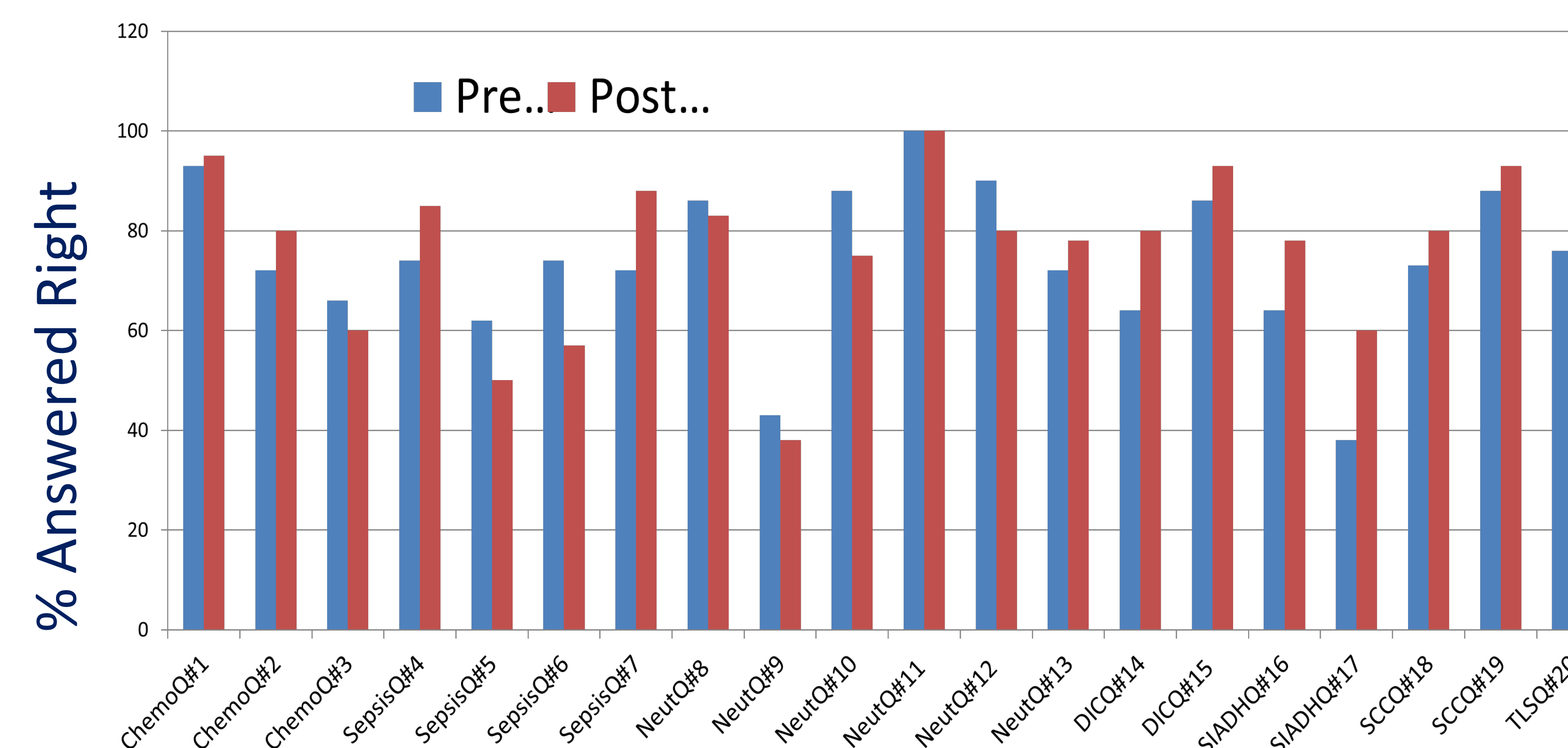
## REFERENCES

References on request  
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## METHODS

- Evidence-based quality improvement project.
- In-patient nurses on Oncology and Float Pool.
- Needs assessment - 20 knowledge questions
  - Assigned to RNs via HealthStream
  - No individual identifying information was collected
- Baseline knowledge (needs assessment) sent to project leader (Stephanie Boncheff) for content development.
- HealthStream education, SLM (self-learning modules) and 1:1 education (as needed) was provided.
- A posttest consisting of same knowledge questions to assess if education provided was effective & to determine what further education should be offered.
- Survey:
  - Pretest/needs assessment (N=58)
  - Posttest (N =40)

## RESULTS - pretest/posttest



## RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

- 12/20 questions scored higher on posttest, showing a 60% improvement in knowledge
- These nurses state they felt prepared to care for critically ill patients
- Improved patient outcomes. Oncology nurses and Float Pool nurses recognized early signs & symptoms of Oncological Emergencies leading to earlier intervention

## LIMITATIONS

- Low participation in post assessment.

## CONCLUSIONS/DISCUSSION

- Nurses may miss signs & symptoms of oncological emergencies when they have not been previously exposed to these conditions (Relias, 2000).
- Timely identification & intervention in these conditions is critical to reduce patient morbidity & mortality (Foulkes, 2010).