A Survey Evaluating Confidence in Tracheostomy Management Among Healthcare Providers

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INTRODUCTION

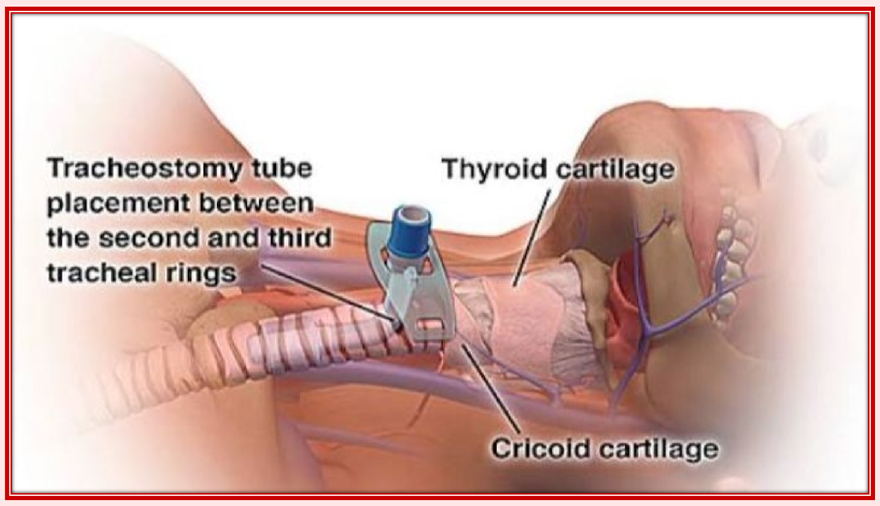
Tracheostomies are a common surgical procedure and healthcare providers of all types encounter these patients throughout the course of care. Despite this, few healthcare providers receive in-depth training on tracheostomies.

AIM

The goal of this project is to survey healthcare providers (nurses, APPs, residents, respiratory therapists) about their knowledge regarding tracheostomy management. The aim is to identify clear gaps in knowledge that can be addressed by further education. This will lead to more comprehensive, timely, and safe care for patients and hopefully creation of a protocol to guide healthcare providers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A voluntary and anonymous survey was administered to a variety of healthcare providers (residents, speech-language pathologists, medical students, physical and occupational therapists) before receiving tracheostomy education. A REDCap data collection sheet was used in survey format to collect data.



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CONCLUSIONS/NEXT STEPS

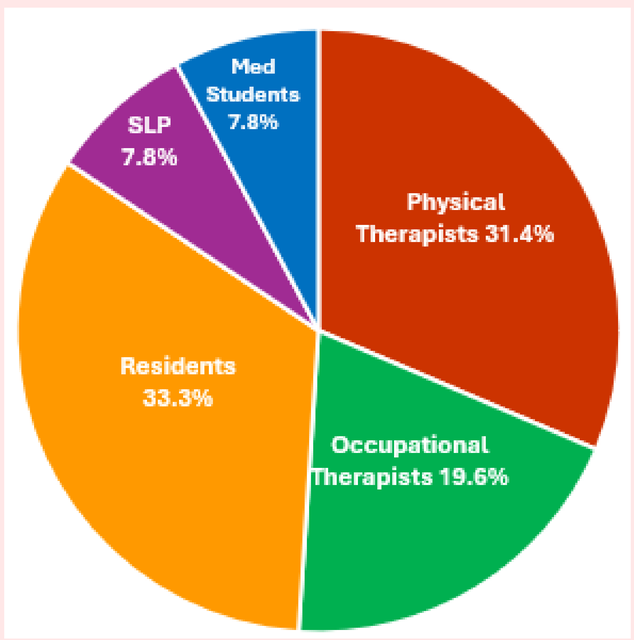
At Saint Francis Hospital, comfort with and knowledge regarding tracheostomies is varied and limited, with a majority of providers feeling uncomfortable with caring for these patients.

Further surveys to nursing and pre-hospital providers is imminent. Education efforts to improve knowledge and comfort surrounding tracheostomies is critical, in order to avoid increased complications. Ideally, creation of a dedicated tracheostomy management team could allow for improved quality.

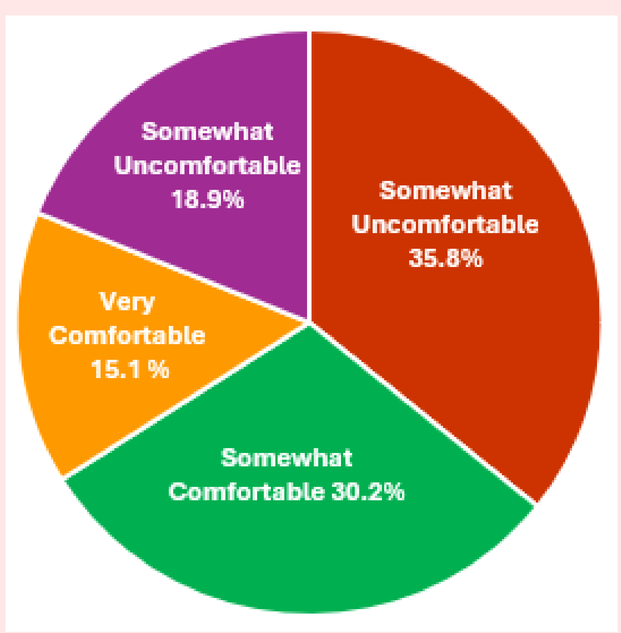




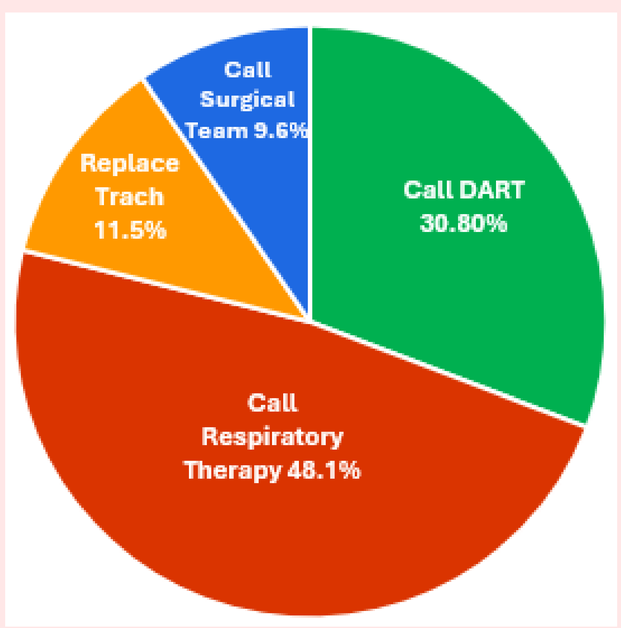
RESULTS



To date, a total of 53 surveys have been completed. A majority of responses were from residents (33.3%). Survey responders ranged in experience, with 27% having only 1-2 years of medical experience, while 21.2% had over 15 years of experience.



Most responders were either somewhat uncomfortable (35.8%) or very uncomfortable (18.9%) when taking care of patients with tracheostomies. Responses regarding tracheostomy function knowledge were varied.



Finally, healthcare providers respond to dislodged tracheostomies in a variety of ways, utilizing different teams.

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