

# EATT: Epworth Airway Team Training 2015 – 2020. Measuring the Effectiveness of a Small Group Interprofessional High-fidelity Simulation CICO Course



Tom Hallahan (1) Laurence Poon (1,2) Bridget Langley (1,3)

- 1) Epworth Clinical Education and Simulation Centre, Melbourne
- 2) Epworth Hospital Richmond, Epworth HealthCare, Melbourne
- 3) Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Management, St Vincents Hospital, Melbourne

## Introduction

---

A Can't Intubate Can't Oxygenate (CICO) situation is a rare-yet-extremely-stressful event which seldom occurs in isolation in theatre. Effective teamwork is vital in this time-critical emergency.

To ensure staff are adequately familiarised with the management of difficult airway situations, we developed the Epworth Airway Team Training workshop (EATT), an interprofessional course for anaesthetists and anaesthetic nurses.

## Methodology

---

Following a presentation outlining the Difficult Airway Society (DAS) algorithm and difficult airway management, anaesthetists perform needle jet cricothyrotomy and scalpel-bougie techniques to secure front-of-neck access on part task trainers. Video laryngoscopy and fiberoptic intubation techniques are practiced. Simultaneously nurses are given a demonstration on the Epworth difficult intubation trolley and assembly of high-flow oxygenation (THRIVE). All participants are then involved in high-fidelity fully-immersive scenarios.

Utilising the world-class simulation facilities at Epworth, participants use a range of airway adjuncts in a simulated Operating Room during a simulated CICO event, ultimately culminating in a surgical airway. This is one of the first interprofessional simulation-based CICO workshops in Australia involving anaesthetist and nursing participants.

## Results

---

Workshop participants self-rate using a 5 point Lickert scale on pre and post course confidence in CICO recognition, knowledge of CICO algorithm, using advanced airway adjuncts, emergency cricothyrotomy kits and management of CICO in theatre.

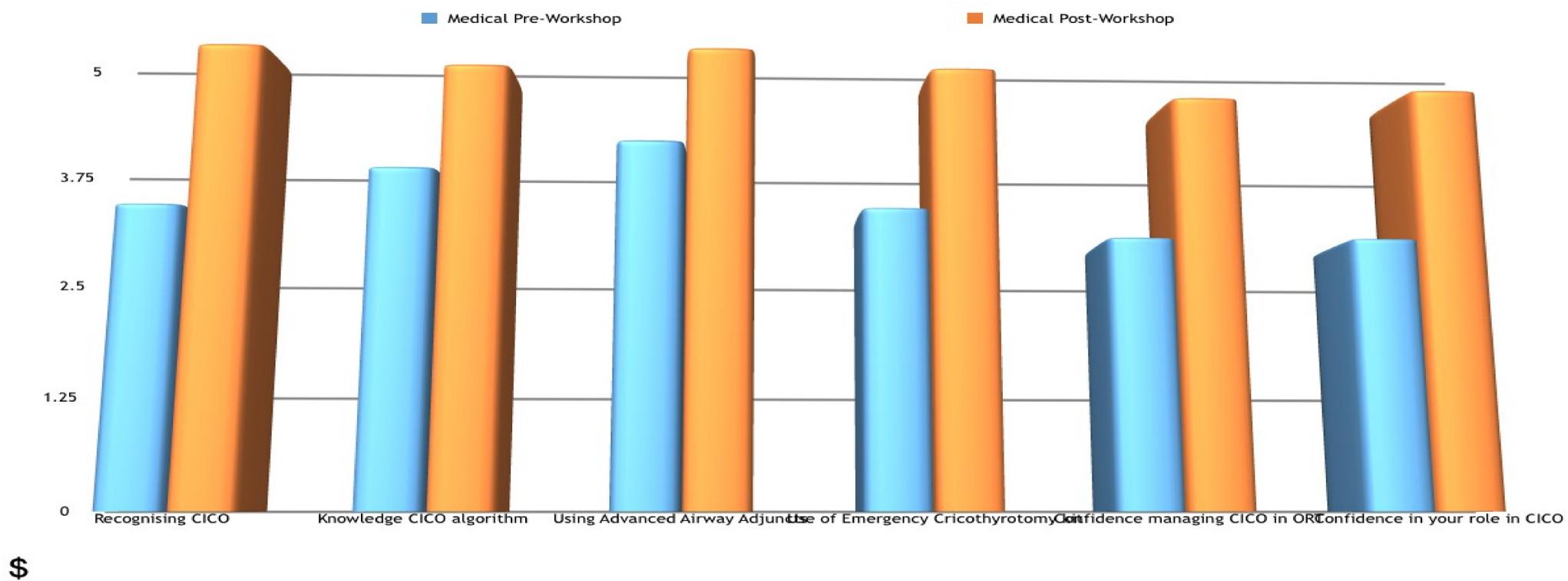
- Not surprisingly, Anaesthetists self-rated higher than nursing staff in all of the categories.
- This skill set is part of anaesthetic training and constitutes part of the mandatory skills ANZCA expects anaesthetists to maintain.
- Given the paucity of nursing-specific CICO courses, nurses showed greater improvement post-course than medical staff. For most nurses, this was their first formal training in CICO situations.
- Anecdotally, nursing staff recognised they would be unlikely to be expected to manage a CICO situations

## Conclusion

---

The use of fully immersive simulation and interprofessional training has improved the knowledge of CICO responses and the equipment required in both anaesthetists and anaesthetic nurses. This small group boutique course has proved to be an effective educational program in managing a rare but life threatening event.

### Anaesthetists' Average Lickert scores as self-rated by participants pre and post course



### Nurses Average Lickert scores as self-rated by participants pre and post course

