

# Didactic Education and Its Effect on the New RNs Comfort Level in the Care of Thoracotomy Patients

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# Didactic Education and Its Effect on the New RNs Comfort Level in the Care of Thoracotomy Patients

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## Background/Significance

- The Open heart unit and Transitional Open heart unit care for numerous thoracotomy patients on a daily basis. The needs for both units includes increased education available for registered nurses. Currently there is no set protocol for the care of these specific patients
- I conducted an evidence based literary search to find evidence to support the use of didactic education leads to positive learning outcomes. This search indicated that didactic education enables learners to process the information and leads to better clinical process outcomes

## Purpose

- **Does the addition of didactic education compared to only precepted clinical education increase the comfort level of new graduate RNS caring for thoracotomy patients ?**

**P:** New registered nurses caring for thoracotomy patients

**I:** Didactic education on the post operative care of thoracotomy care

**C:** Registered Nurses who only had precepted clinical education/experience with this specific patient population

**O:** An increase in comfort of the new graduate RNs caring for thoracotomy patients

## Project Summary

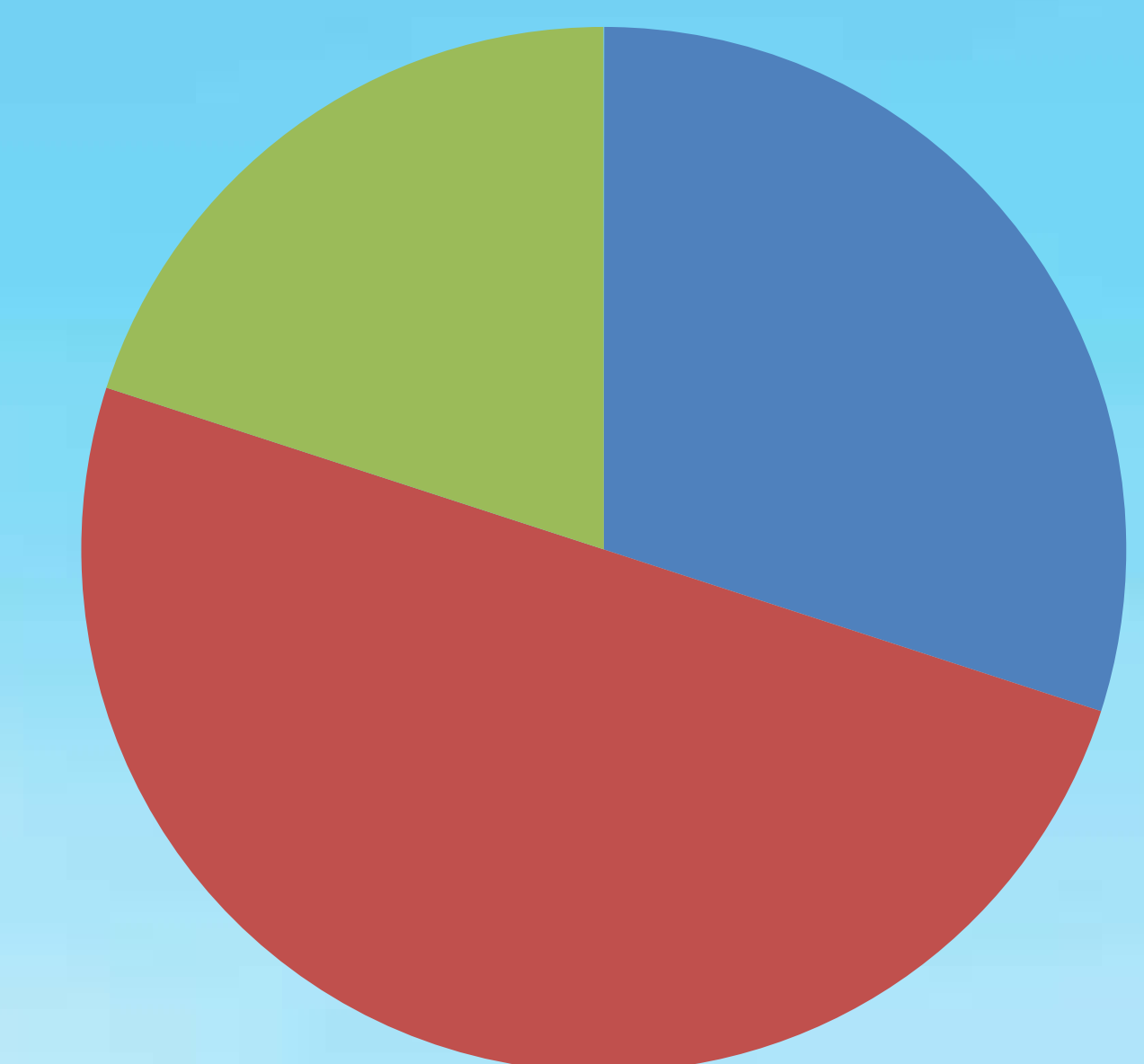
- I created a survey to be taken by the newly graduated registered nurses on the open heart unit and the transitional open heart unit. The survey would be provided twice through an online source. The pre-education survey was dispensed on January 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.
- On January 15<sup>th</sup> emails were sent to the eleven new graduate registered nurses on both OHU and TOHU urging them to participate in the surveys and informing them about the project. The new graduates were reminded of the absence of a protocol or management-approved education on the care of thoracotomy patients on these units.
- I created an educational PowerPoint focusing on post op care of thoracotomy patients and management of chest tubes. The PowerPoint was assigned to all eleven participants on January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Then a post-education survey was provided to the new graduate RNs on January 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.
- Pre education Survey results yielded that 30% of the new RN graduates felt Very comfortable with the care of thoracotomy patients, 50% felt a little comfortable and 20% did not feel comfortable at all.
- Post education survey results yielded that 55% felt very comfortable and 44% felt a little comfortable.
- 100% of the new graduate RNs on both surveys agreed that they would benefit from having more information about care on the unit.

## Evaluation

- Barriers for this project includes staff participation and readiness for education. These obstacles could have been avoided with providing staff with more time to complete surveys.
- The educational PowerPoint created through this project will now be a required training tool for all new graduates/new hires on the open-heart unit and transitional open-heart unit. The PowerPoint I created will now remain on both units to be used as a reference at all times.

## Pre-education Data

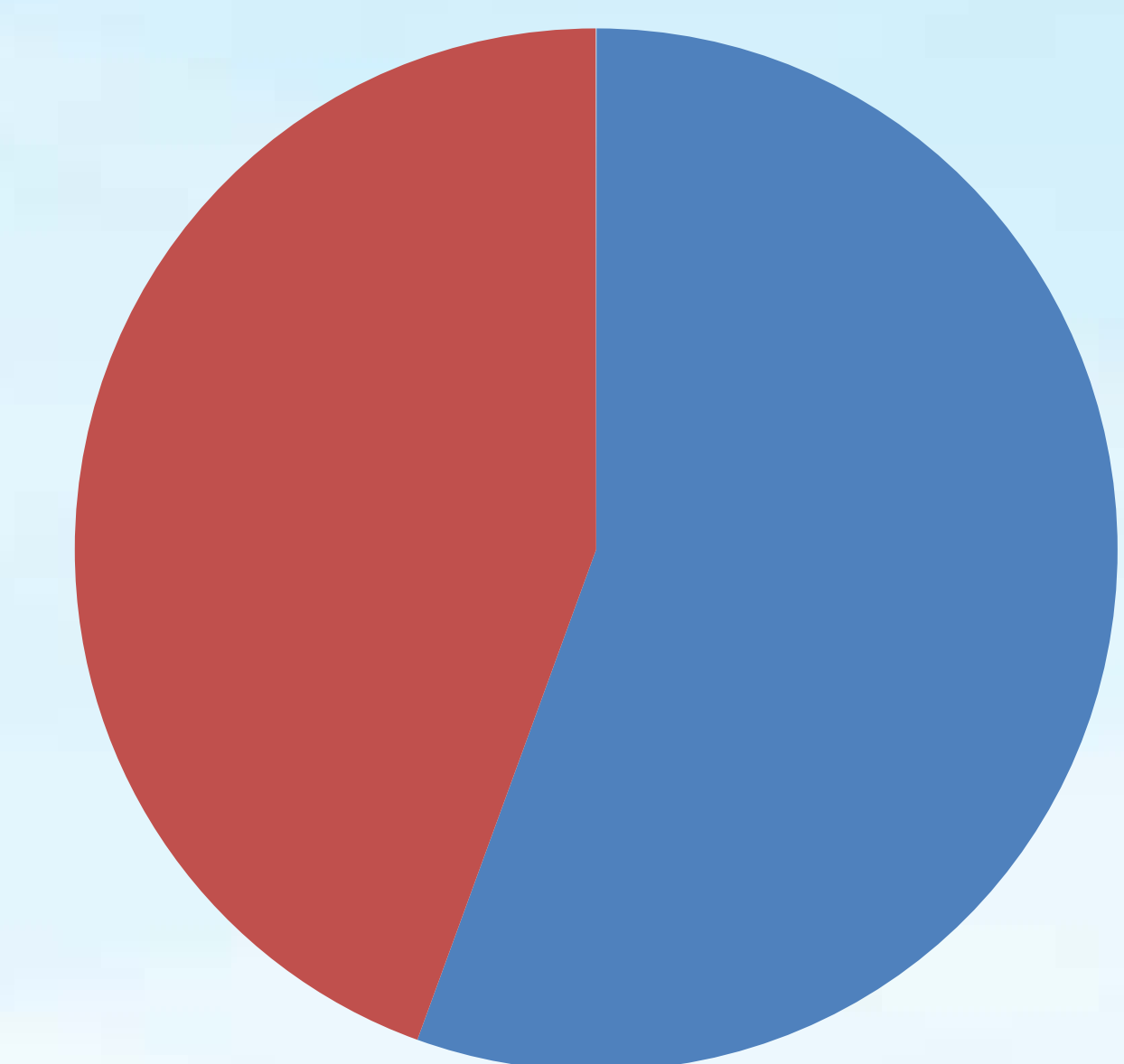
- How comfortable do you feel caring for a patient with a fresh thoracotomy?



■ Very Comfortable ■ A little Comfortable ■ Not Comfortable at all

## Post-education Data

- How comfortable do you feel caring for a patient with a fresh thoracotomy?



■ Very Comfortable ■ A little comfortable ■ Not comfortable at all

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