

First-time Parents' Knowledge of Newborn Suctioning

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Purpose

- The practice of newborn suctioning is poorly defined. A definite gap exists in the literature related to newborn suctioning.
- Parents may receive incorrect instruction regarding suctioning. It is important to investigate what new parents know about newborn suctioning and determine methods to deliver this content.



Methodology

- This non-experimental, pretest/posttest, pilot/feasibility study was conducted to assess first-time parents' learning by determining the relationship between responses on a pre- and post-test following a teaching intervention concerning bulb suctioning indications, methods, cleaning, and storage.
- The sample population consisted of seven first-time parents, ages 21 to 30, 85% Caucasian, and all held at least a GED or high school diploma.

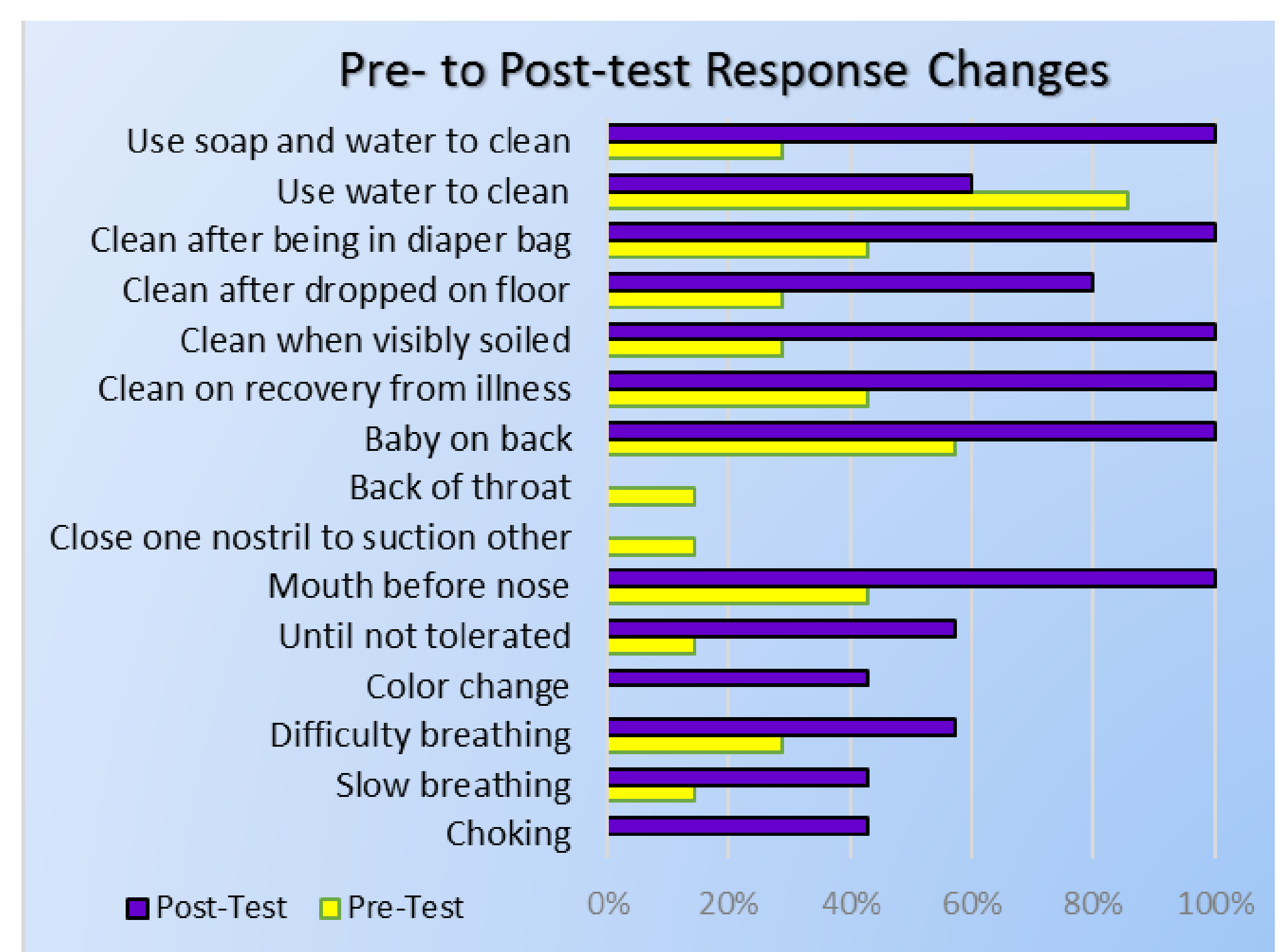
Nursing Practice Implications

- With research on the bulb syringe currently lacking, the importance of safely using the bulb and cleaning after every use is the priority to teach parents.
- Emphasize to parents the importance of keeping the bulb syringe near the baby at all times in case of a choking event

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Key Findings



- On the post-test, no participants indicated they would occlude one nostril to suction the other or that they would suction the back of the throat, both of which could harm the newborn. These findings indicate teaching was effective in increasing parents knowledge.
- The mnemonic "M" before "N", mouth before nose" was utilized in teaching and proved effective in helping participants remember the correct order.



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g-nose-clear-
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Future Research Implications

- Strengthening the instrument
- Focus group to clarify terms used in teaching and on instrument
- Repeat study with larger sample size for increased generalizability
- Determine best methods for instructing new parents