

The involvement of Clinical Associates in Spinal anesthesia for caesarean section in SA

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Introduction

- South African health systems face many challenges with regards to the shortage of health care workers, mostly doctors and nurses.
- Past studies have shown that the average C-section Rate in SA was 16.1% and varied from a high of 32.5% to a low of 3.2% (2010). One of the reasons for low C-section rates in South African rural areas is the shortage of doctors.
- A mid-level worker model (Clinical Associates) that can contribute substantively to the development of quality district level health care mostly in rural areas was introduced in SA in 2008.

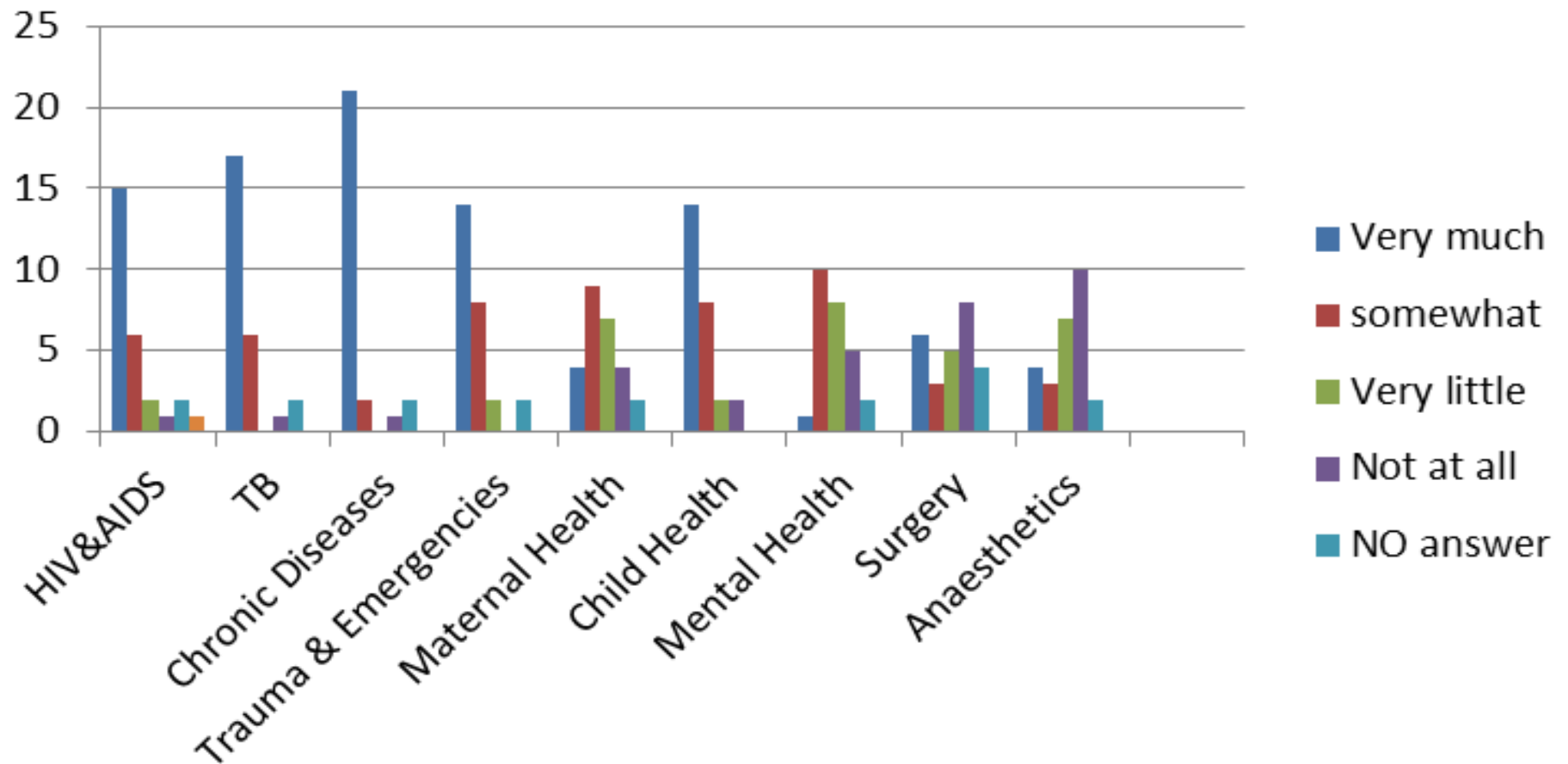
Aims

- To look at the level of involvement of ClinAs in doing the spinal anesthesia for C-section in SA.
- To look at their satisfaction with the training that they received at their Universities.

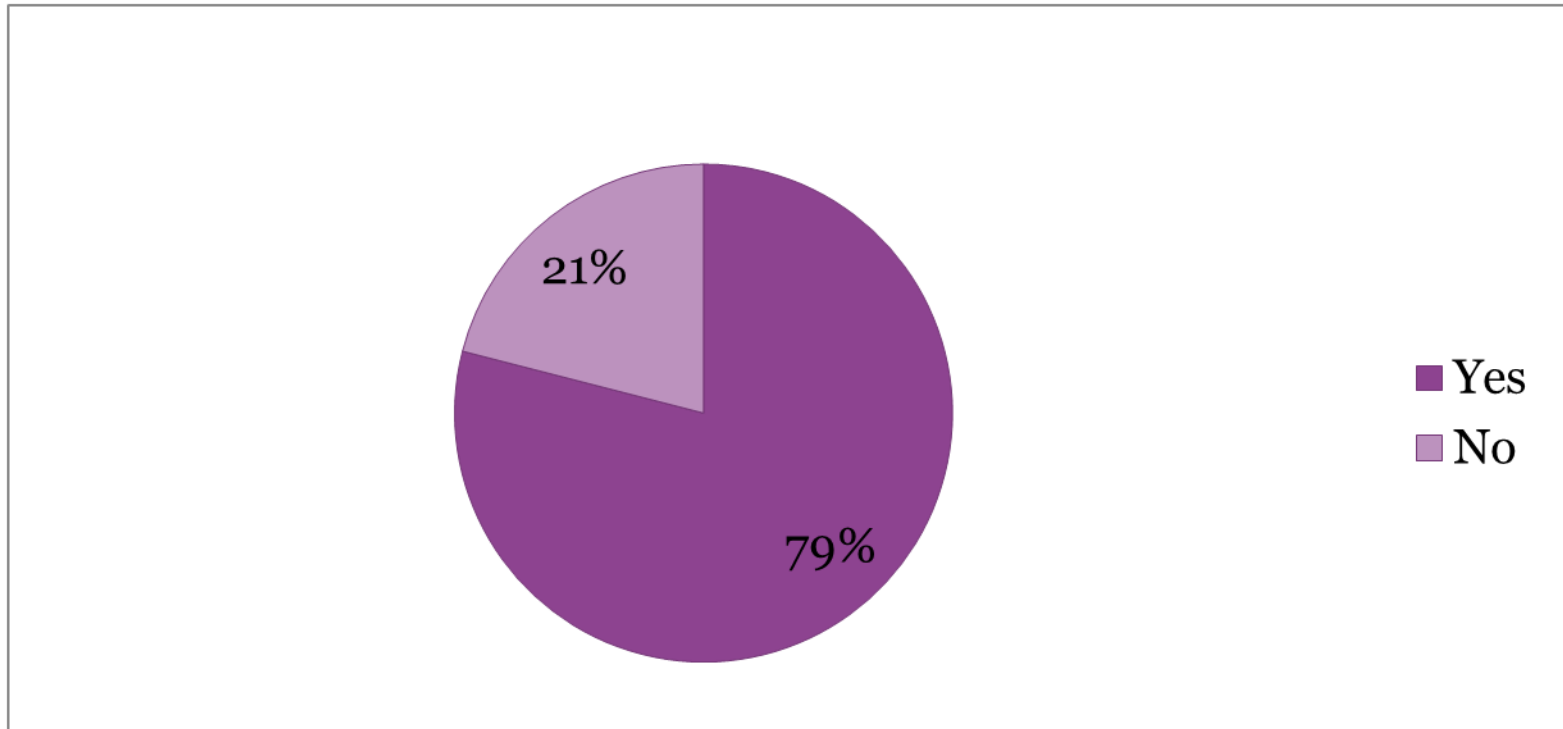
Metodiology

- This was a cross sectional study which was done at UP, among 35 ClinA who attended the ClinA CPD course in June 2014 at UP.
- The study population consisted of ClinAs whom were trained in all the 3 Universities
- Out of 35 ClinA who attended the CPD course, only 25 were present the day the survey was conducted and they all completed it.
- The questionnaire was based on closed ended questions that required ClinAs to choose the statement that best described their anesthetic experience.

Results



Results: Have you done the spinal anesthesia before?" Y/N



Results cont

5. Do you think you received adequate training on spinal anesthesia as a student?

very much	somewhat	not at all			
3	13	8			
13%	54%	33%			

7. Do you need any extra training in spinal anesthesia?

a.	Yes,					23	92%
b.	No , I am adequately trained					1	4%
c.	No, I have no desire to train further					1	4%

Discussion

- 20% of the participants have experienced complications and 92% feel that they need extra training in this field.
- ClinA should always work under supervision of a medical practitioner, Most of them indicated that there was an adequate supervision, which is a very important finding since the majority of ClinA might not be competent in doing general anesthesia. It is however of concern that 16% answered that they had no supervision at all.
- 33% of the participants indicated that they didn't receive the adequate anesthetic training as students, which is worrying.

Conclusion

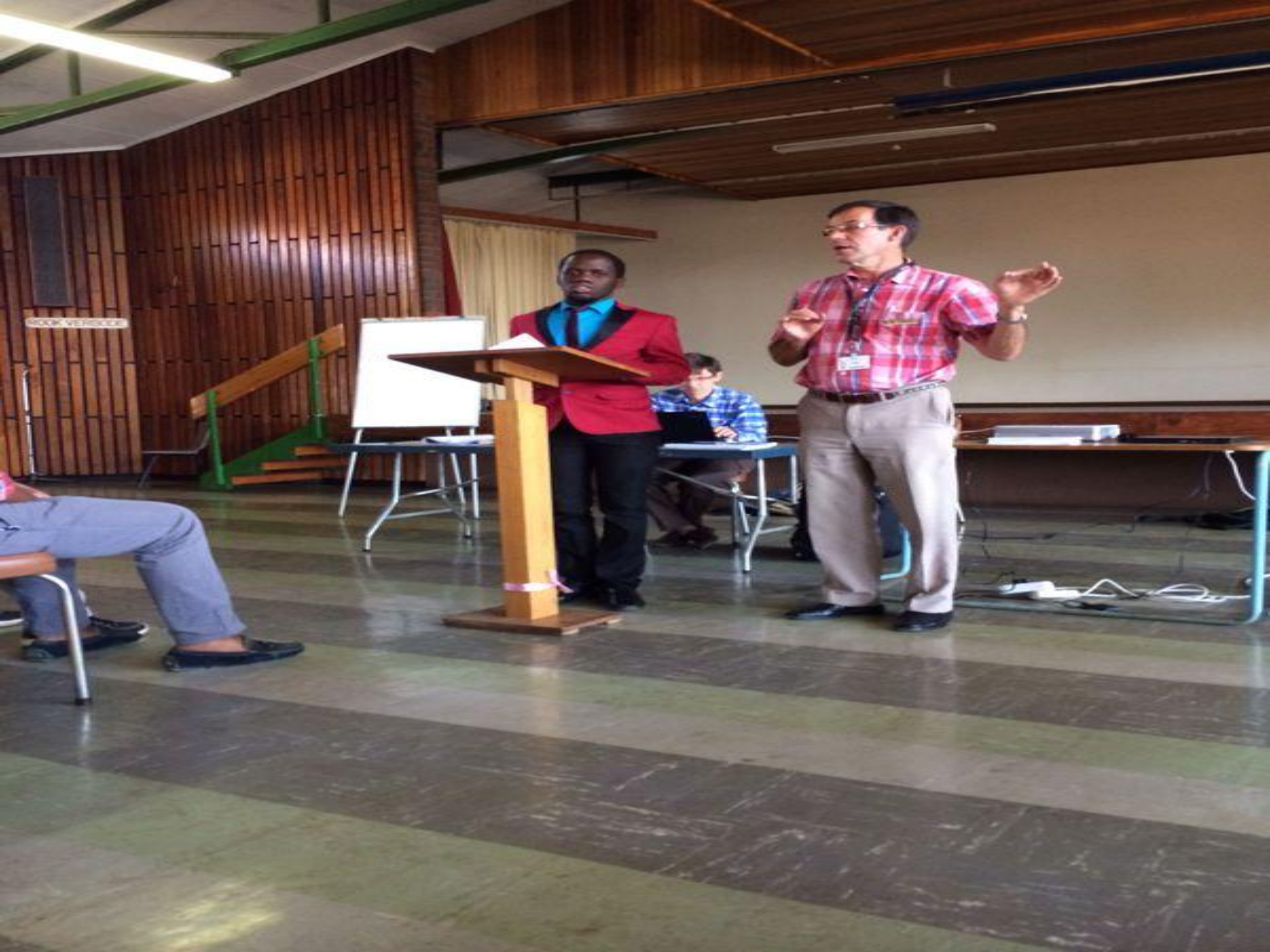
- Most clinical associates are involved in doing spinal anesthesia in SA.
- ClinA anesthetic curriculum should be reviewed by the universities currently training ClinA and by HPCSA.
- ClinA should be trained in diagnosing any complication during spinal anesthesia and be able to do the initial management while they call for help.

Conclusion cont...

- An intervention programme could be designed by districts specialist's teams to improve the training of ClinAs working in districts hospitals.
- To ensure patient safety ClinA should have done at least 30 spinal anesthesia under direct supervision by an experienced anesthetics.

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- Clinical Associates
- Clinical Associates students



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ATTENTION**



YESSSS, FINALLY OVER!

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