

# Orthopaedic Teaching for Foundation Year Doctors

## Background

- Almost 50% of doctors have an Orthopaedic placement during their Foundation Programme.
- On average, medical students have only 3 weeks of Undergraduate Orthopaedic teaching<sup>1</sup>.
- Foundation Doctors are then required to do independent ward rounds, give advice to referring practitioners, and see patients on the acute take.
- Further postgraduate education is required to facilitate safe and correct care of Orthopaedic patients.

## Aims

1. To set up and run an Orthopaedics teaching series for Foundation Doctors in the Royal United Hospital Bath
2. To improve Foundation Doctors knowledge, skills, and confidence in Orthopaedics
3. To improve care provided to Orthopaedic patients when seen by Foundation Doctors

## Methods

- Initial Foundation Doctor confidence levels were assessed with responses scored using a five-point Likert Scale (Table 1 and 2).
- Once weekly teaching sessions were set up throughout the 4 month Foundation Doctor rotation.
- Teaching was delivered by Orthopaedic Registrars in their current subspecialty placement.
- Areas of weakness identified in the initial survey were focussed on.
- Confidence levels were then reassessed at the end of the teaching series (Table 3 and 4).

## Results

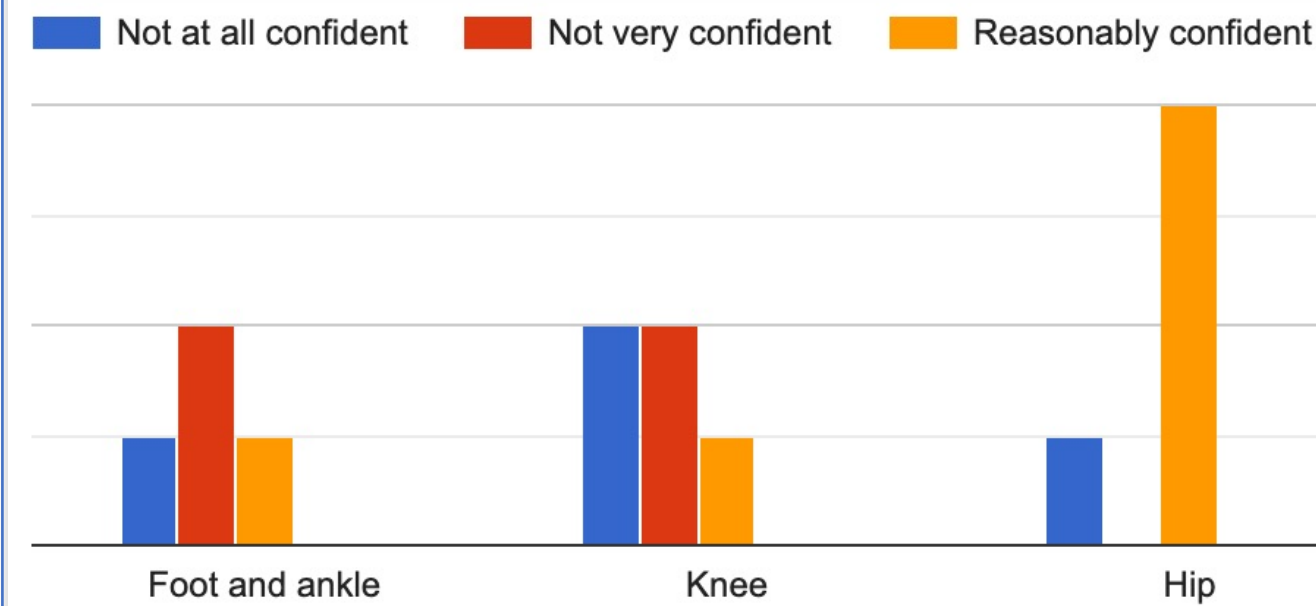
- Initial survey revealed 90% of Foundation Doctors ranked themselves as “not at all” or “not very” confident in their knowledge.
- Only 80% ranked themselves as “reasonably” confident in the management of hip fractures. No Foundation Doctors ranked themselves as “very” or “extremely confident”.
- At the end of teaching series 60% ranked themselves as “very confident” across subspecialties.

## References:

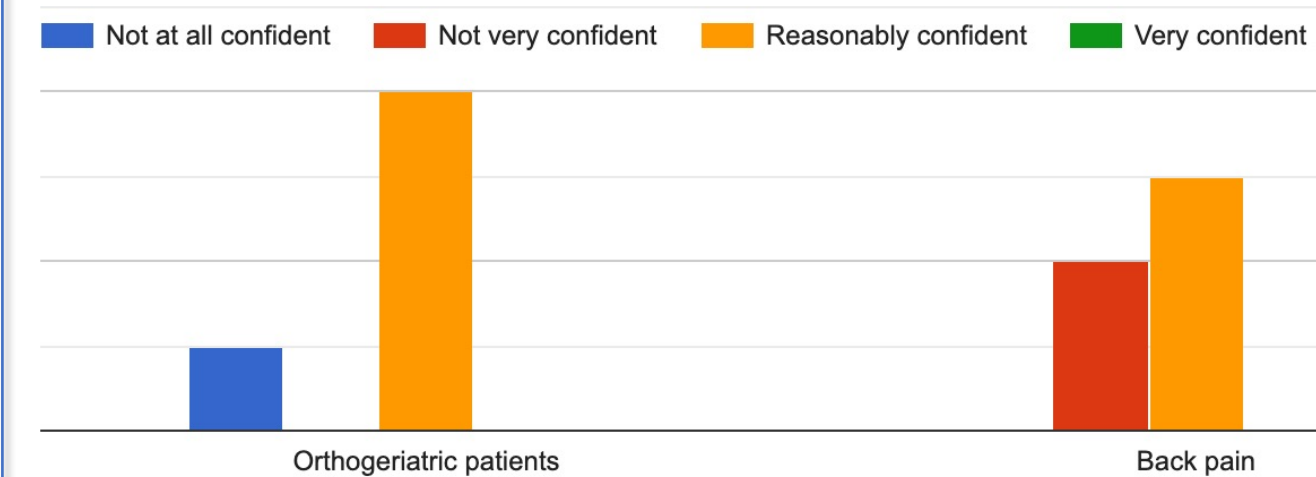
1. About: British Orthopaedic Medical Student Organisation BOMSA. Available at: <https://www.bomsa.org.uk/about> (Accessed: March 24, 2023)

## Results:

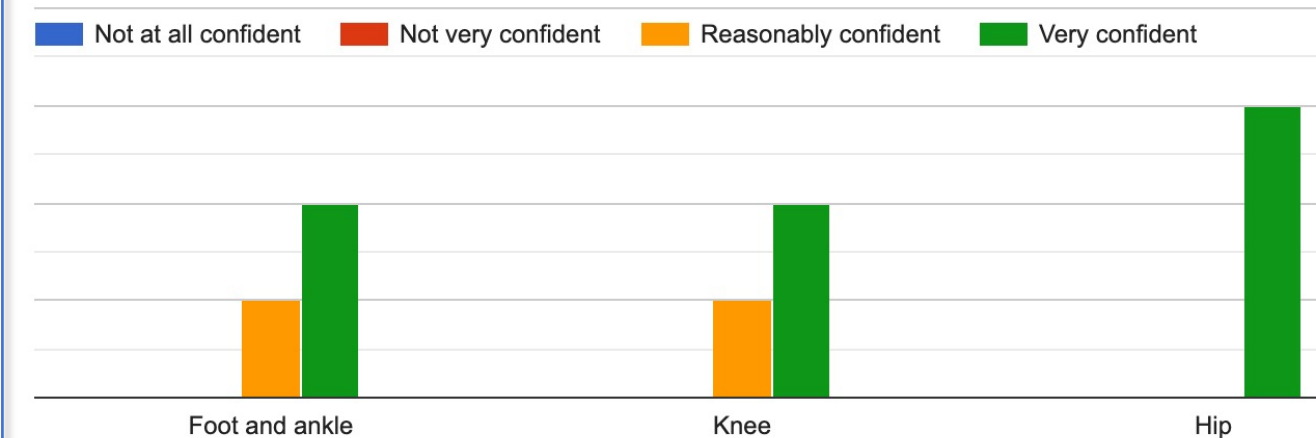
### 1. Prior to teaching series – subspecialties



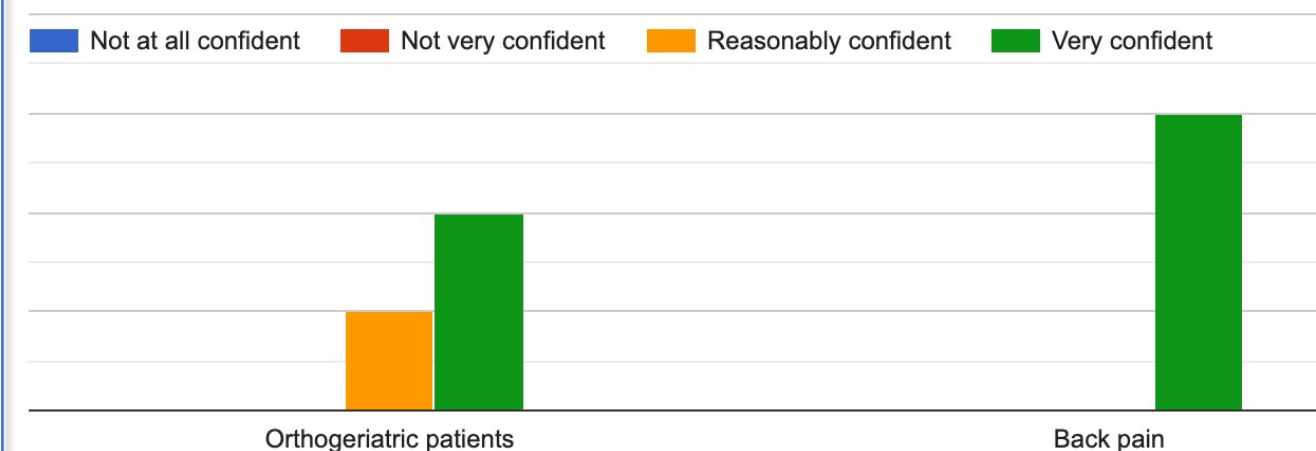
### 2. Prior to teaching series – patient subgroups



### 3. Following teaching series – subspecialties



### 4. Following teaching series – patient subgroups



## Key messages

- The programme was set up and run by Core Trainees and delivered by Registrars with Consultant supervision.
- Overall, confidence of Foundation Doctors significantly increased following the teaching series.
- This increased confidence facilitates improved patient care.
- Postgraduate Orthopaedic teaching should be a requirement of all Orthopaedic Foundation Programme placements.

## Discussion

- Overall the teaching programme proved extremely successful with both Foundation Doctors (students) and Registrars (teachers).
- There were some limitations to this series:
- Due to the relatively small number of Foundation Doctors working within Orthopaedics for each rotation and the constraints of the on call rota, the sessions were never attended by all Foundation Doctors. This meant some sessions were poorly attended and some Foundation Doctors missed important sessions.
- To ensure protected, bleep free, teaching time, the sessions were run at 0730, prior to the start of the working day. The Foundation Doctors were allowed to leave 30 minutes early to account for this. Foundation Doctors had mixed opinions regarding this timing. More data is required to determine a consensus view.
- Feedback with suggested improvements include:
  - Foundation Doctors to deliver teaching sessions to their peers.
  - Recording sessions for those who are unable to attend to watch back.

## Future Development

- The teaching programme has been continued by a new CT1 in Orthopaedics.
- Points of improvement have been implemented:
  - Foundation Doctors are now able to sign up to teach sessions which they can then record on their Horus portfolio
  - Plans are in place to record sessions for those unable to attend
- Feedback regarding timing of the teaching will continue to be collected.