Utilization of an Educational Tool by Anesthesia Providers for Breastfeeding Mothers Receiving Anesthesia

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Background & Purpose

- Undergoing surgery & anesthesia can interrupt breastfeeding & lead to early cessation.
- Current ASA & AANA’s guidelines encourage the resumption of breastfeeding as soon as the mother regains wakefulness & can safely hold her infant.
- Due to inconsistencies with adherence to current guidelines from anesthesia providers, this has led to early discontinuation of breastfeeding.
- Purpose: To identify if there is a change in anesthesia providers’ practice in breastfeeding education using a breastfeeding educational tool.

Method

- Project Design: Quality Improvement (QI)
- Setting: An academic university hospital
- Participants: anesthesiologists, anesthesia residents, CRNAs, and SRNAs.
- Primary Outcome: Providers practice change
- Secondary Outcome: Increase screening of breastfeeding patients & benefit of educational tool
- Pre-Intervention: 4 weeks of chart review & 2 weeks of pre-intervention survey
- Intervention Phase- 1 week introduction of tool
- Post-Intervention: 4 weeks of chart review & 2 weeks of post-intervention survey

Results

- The educational tool facilitated change in practice by increasing the number of providers recommending resuming breastfeeding as soon as the patient regains consciousness and an increase in preoperative screening frequency.
- The QI project highlighted discrepancies in current breastfeeding recommendation awareness among anesthesia providers regarding breastfeeding patients receiving anesthesia.
- Although a knowledge gap was identified, the educational tool positively impacted provider awareness and education.

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