

“Back to Basics” Teaching Programme For The International Medical Graduate (IMG) Doctors At The University Hospital Of Wales



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INTRODUCTION

Working in a new unfamiliar health system is a daunting task faced by many IMG clinicians in their first role as a doctor in the NHS.

We developed a teaching programme to ease this transition and improve their work experience.

OBJECTIVES

To improve the confidence and clinical skills of IMG resident doctors in managing acutely unwell patients before senior review is available during their on-call medical shifts.

METHODS

- Teaching was imparted on a weekly basis for three months by different Registrars and Consultants on clinically relevant topics.
- Each session lasted 30 to 45 minutes.
- Attendance was in-person or virtually.
- Fourteen sessions were conducted.
- Feedback questionnaire was circulated before commencing and after completion of programme to determine improvement in confidence levels.

Approach to a patient with stroke	4AT Score
Approach to a patient with seizure	VTE prophylaxis
Approach to a patient with low GCS	On-call on steroids
Approach to a patient with arrhythmia	DKA and hyperglycaemia management
Approach to a patient with UGI bleed	Basics of interpretation of an arterial blood gas
Approach to a patient with breathlessness	Interpretation of x-rays: Chest & Abdomen
Approach to a patient with high NEWS and ITU escalation	Understanding Mental Capacity Act and its assessment

Table 1 – Topics covered during the teaching programme

RESULTS

- Data from participants before (n=23) and after (n=22) the programme was available for analysis.
- This was the first job in the NHS for 80% of them.
- Majority (47.8%) felt ill-equipped to handle emergencies in sub-specialties of Cardiology followed by Neurology (43.5%).
- 95.5% participants found the teaching useful in enhancing their confidence and knowledge.
- They strongly recommended the continuation of this platform to future cohorts.

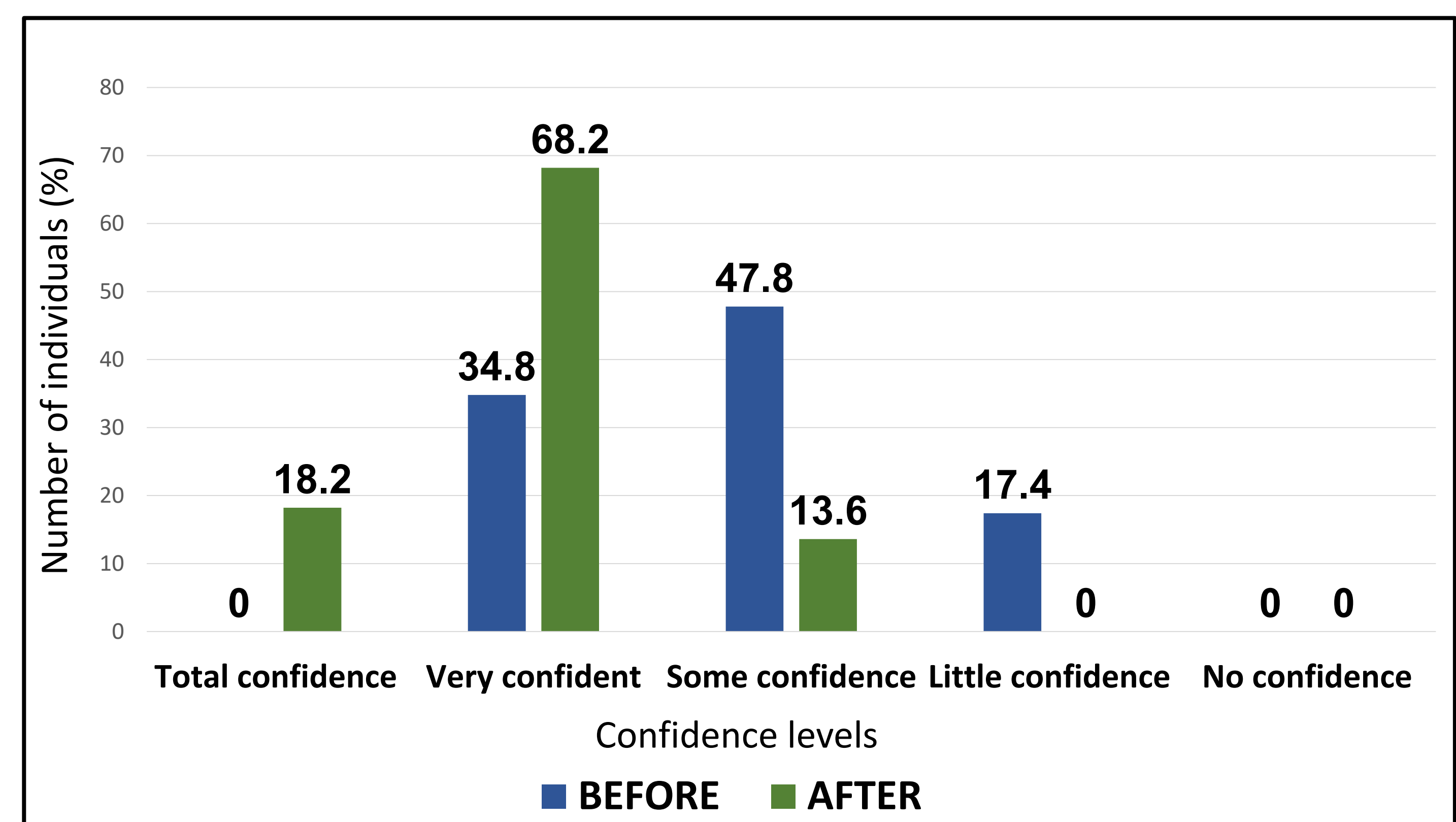


Figure 1 - Comparison of confidence levels in handling an unwell patient before and after the teaching programme

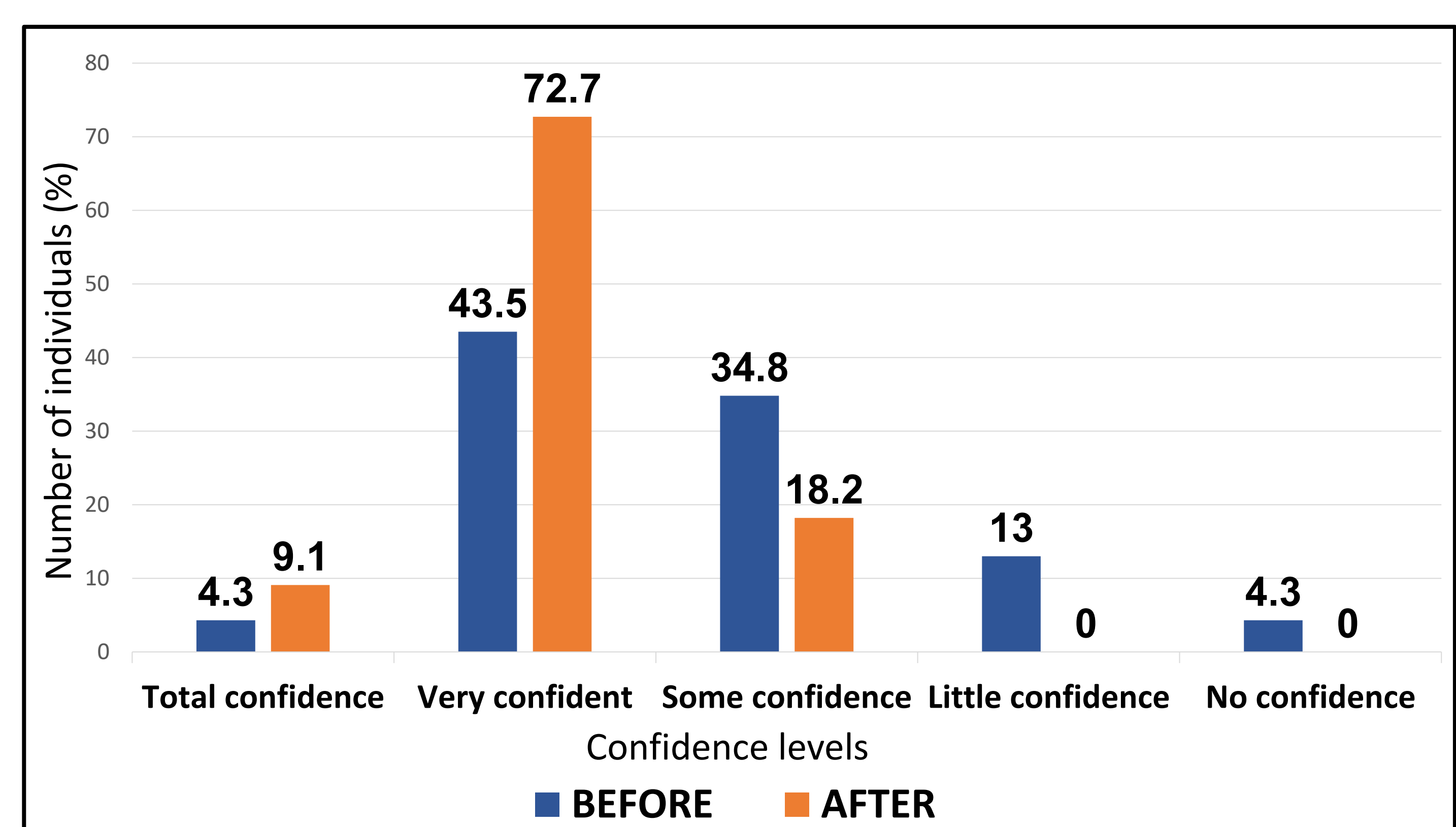


Figure 2 - Comparison of confidence levels in interpreting ECGs, x-rays and blood gases before and after the teaching programme

CONCLUSIONS

- Targeted teaching is imperative to enable physicians trained abroad to become acquainted with the trust protocols and guidelines; thereby resulting in an early understanding of the functioning of the healthcare system and their integration into it.
- This would also help build their confidence, promote well-being at work, foster better relationship with colleagues and ultimately translate into the delivery of safe and quality care to our patients.
- Our targeted teaching programme has resulted in a significant improvement in the confidence levels of our IMG doctors and we strongly recommend other health boards to adopt a similar approach.