

# Pressure Injury Prevention in the Operating Room

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## Background

4%

Surgical patients develop pressure injuries.



Pressure injuries cost the US healthcare system \$11 billion annually or \$70,000 - \$150,000 to the cost of the inpatient hospital stay.

## Objectives

Increase awareness of operating room-related pressure injuries

Increase awareness of the operating room nurse's role in pressure injury prevention

Increase knowledge of the target population: Who is at greatest risk for pressure injury?

Increase knowledge of positioning and padding devices available in the operating room, when and how to use them

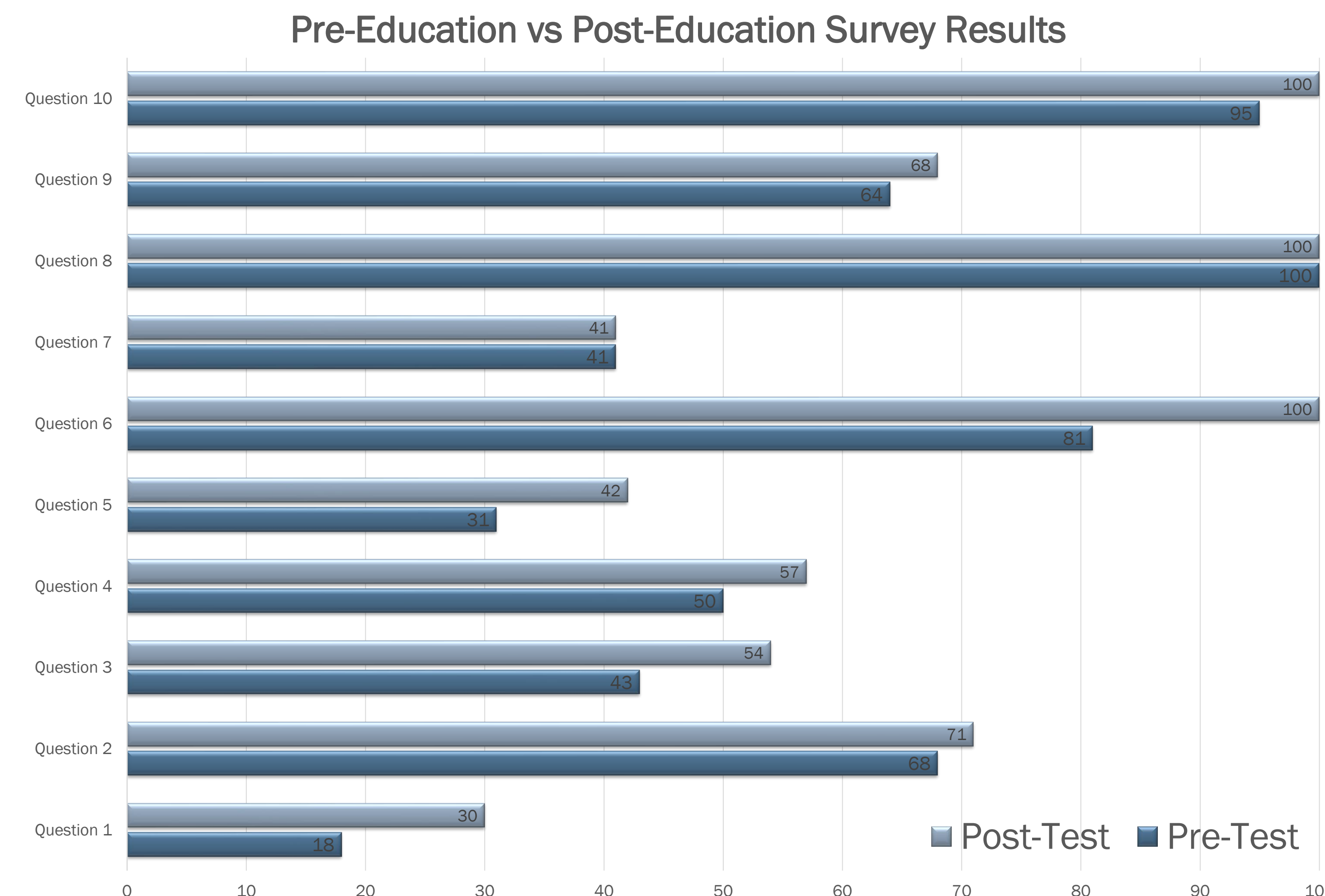
## Methods

Pre-education survey of operating room nurses' current knowledge on pressure injury prevention and high-risk populations.

Education about the importance of pressure injury prevention, assessment, and documentation of the patient, and interventions for the operating room nurse to implement.

Post-education survey of operating room nurses to determine effectiveness of teaching and to identify any areas of follow-up education that is needed

## Results



Demonstrating how many patients' arms do not naturally lay flat. Forcing them to do so while asleep can place more pressure on the olecranon process and scapular regions, creating the potential for pressure injuries.



Demonstrating how the heels should be elevated off the bed, especially for longer procedures, to prevent pressure injuries on the heels.

## Result & Implications

Education of the operating room nurses on their role in pressure injury prevention generally proved positive. Most indicated they learned something significant and that this will improve their practice.



As nurses take ownership of their role in pressure injury prevention in the perioperative setting, surgery-related pressure injuries should decrease, and positive patient outcomes should increase.

## Future Action

Reinforce nursing education with periodic updates from AORN, as well as reminders of best practice

Education of other perioperative nurses and how they can contribute to decreased surgery-related pressure injuries

Work with surgeons to make some of these changes a more permanent part of the routine for the preparations for the surgical patient, including pre-and post-operative considerations

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