



Use of Specialized Mobile Carts to Improve WOC Nurse Consult Efficiency



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Background

- Use of specialized equipment carts in clinical departments has been shown to increase efficiency, increase accessibility of supplies, and improve patient outcomes (Shaw et al., 2023).
- Wound, ostomy, and continence nurses (WOC Nurses) spend a considerable amount of time obtaining supplies for consultations, leading to delays and interruptions in patient care and prolonged consult times.
- Process for obtaining supplies is not standardized across our hospitals and health system.
- Lack of storage standardization of wound, ostomy, continence (WOC) supplies can lead to decreased efficiency in providing optimal patient care.

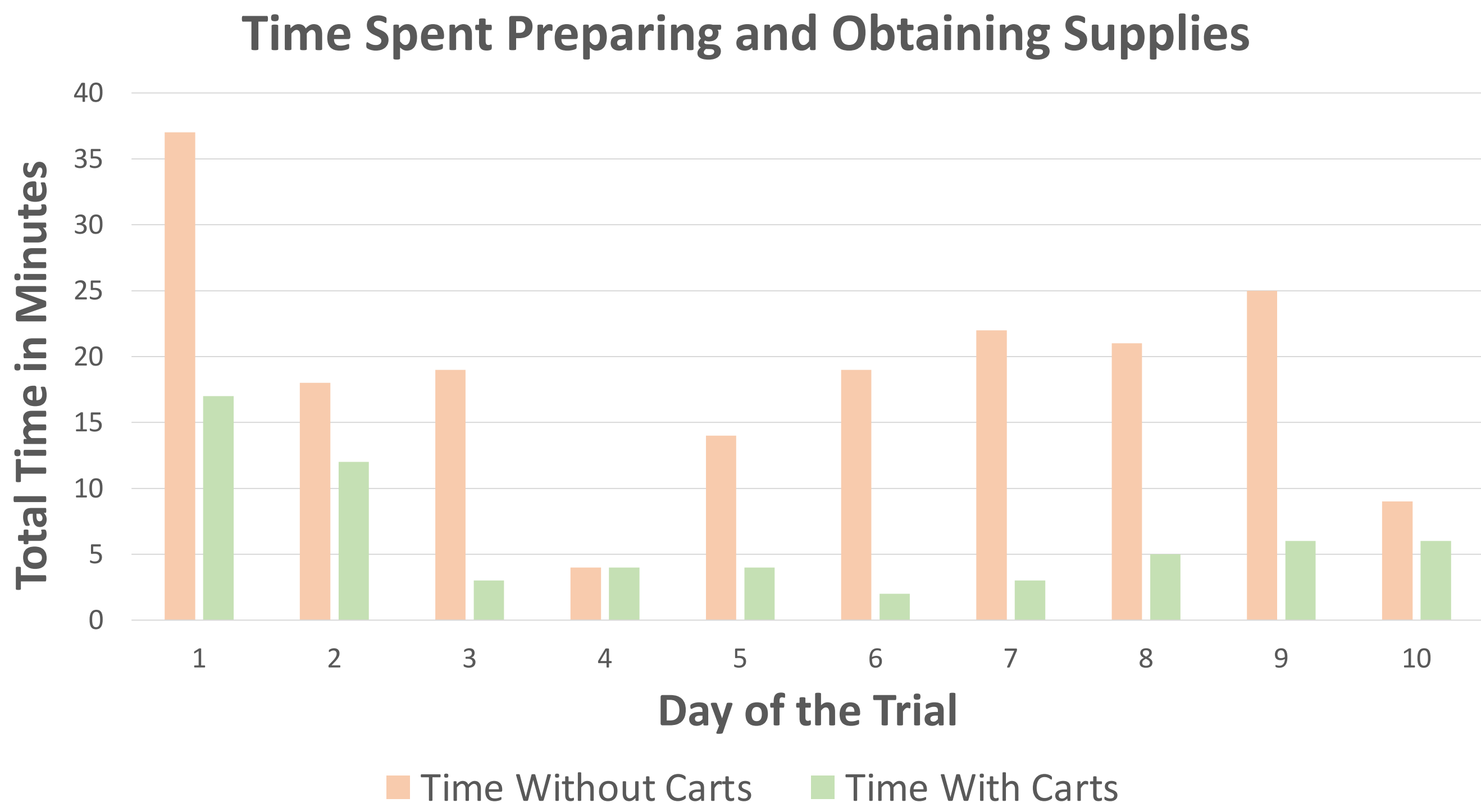
Problem Statement

Would the use of a specialized mobile wound/ostomy supply cart improve WOC nurse consult efficiency by decreasing time spent obtaining supplies during patient consults in our clinical setting?

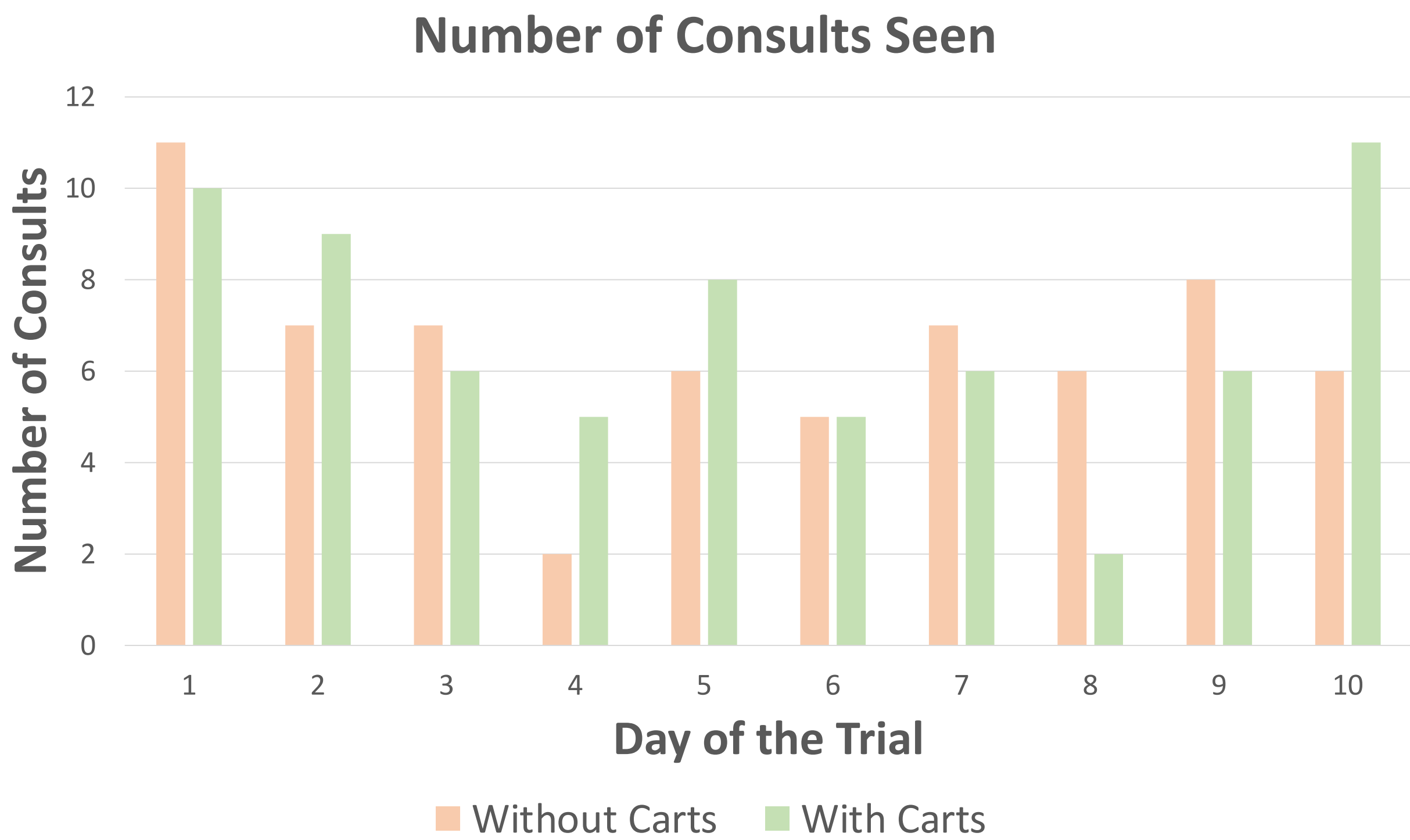
Methods/Data Analysis

- Four certified WOC nurses at Emory Saint Joseph Hospital participated in the trial taking place for 10 days from March 12-27, 2024.
- Each day, the team was divided between those using carts and those not using carts.
- Data collection included:
 - number of consults seen
 - time spent preparing supplies (prepping themselves or their carts with products prior to going to the units) in minutes
 - time spent obtaining supplies (obtaining supplies after determining what was needed for the patient) in minutes

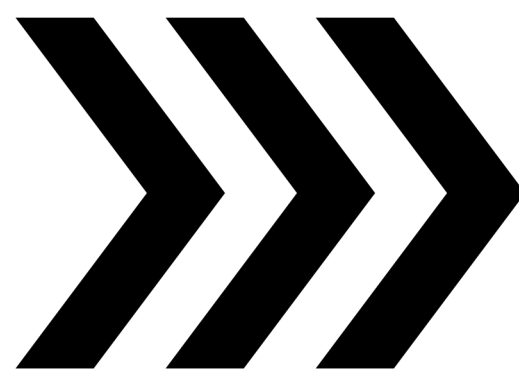
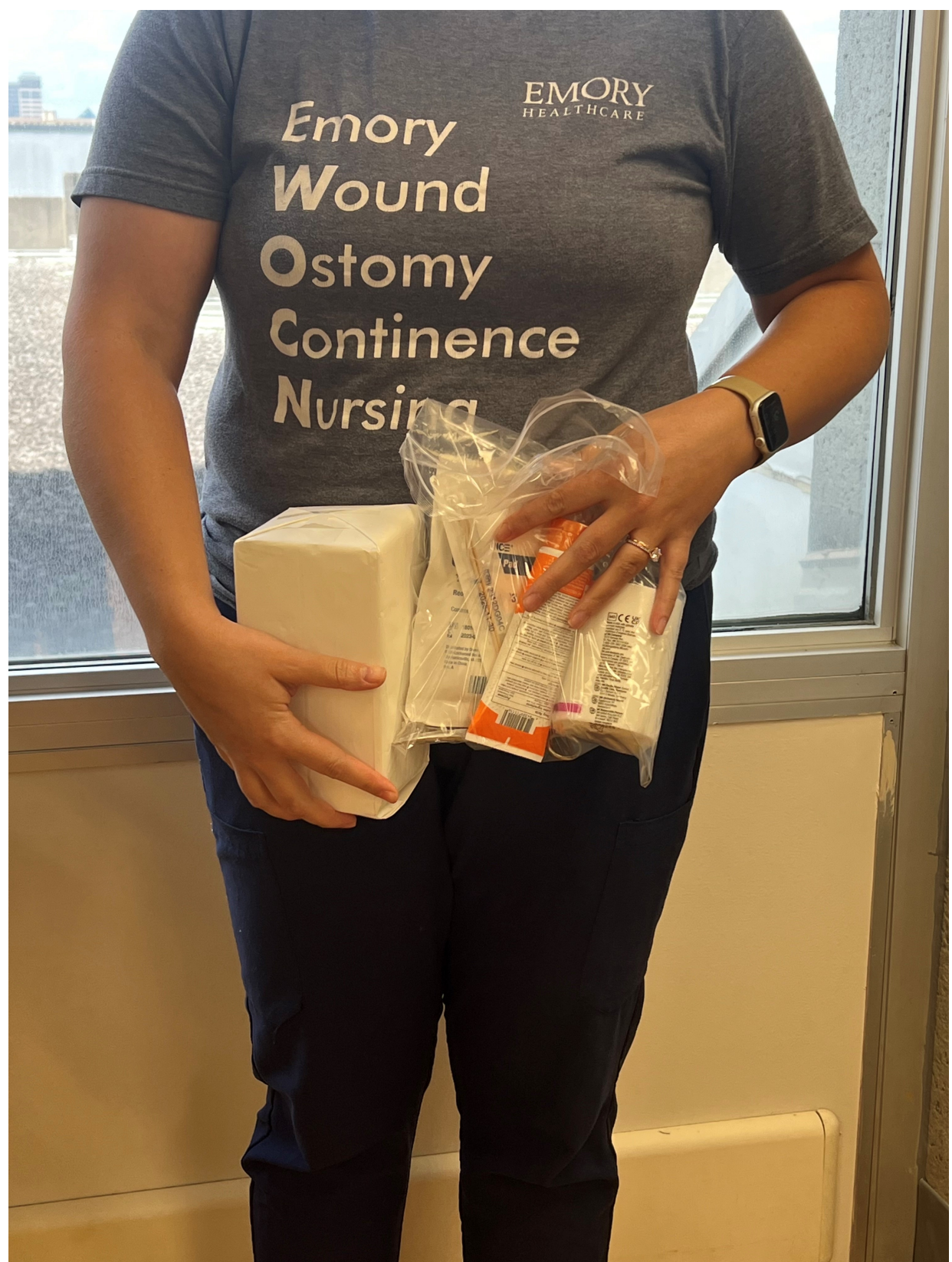
Results



The WOC nurses who used specialized mobile carts saved approximately 2 hours of time preparing and obtaining supplies compared to those who did not use carts.



Both groups saw approximately the same number of patients during the trial for better comparison of times (65 without carts vs 68 with carts).



Discussion / Conclusion

- Based on the average times, if all 133 patients were seen with the use of carts, an estimated time of 227 minutes (3.8 hours) could have been saved.
- Our department already has a budget for supplies; this may prove challenging for other hospitals who do not already have that built into the budget.
- To abide by infection prevention recommendations, carts are not brought into patient rooms, but are rather left outside the door. Standard Infection Prevention methods are used when obtaining supplies.

Implications For Practice

- Based on the findings of the time trial, use of carts can improve efficiency of WOC nurse consults at Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital.
- Recommend that other Emory Hospitals in the system implement a wound/ostomy supply cart process to improve efficiency.
- Continue process evaluation studies as other Emory hospitals uptake this to ensure success in all settings.

Supporting Evidence/References

Shaw, O., Coyle, G., Mitges, C., Upadhye, S., Chan, G., Frassetto, V., & Brown, S. (2023). Use of specialized trauma carts in the emergency department: A scoping review. Academic Emergency Medicine, 30(12), 1275-1278. <https://doi.org/10.1111/acem.14750>

Acknowledgements

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