

New Graduate Labor & Delivery Nurses' Confidence in Recognition of Amniotic Fluid Embolism

Lillian Salazar, B.S., SN, Jessie Schumacher, B.S., NREMT, SN, Julianna Shavers, B.S., SN, Madison Shook, B.A., SN, Shermel Edwards-Maddox, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE, RN-BC and Danielle Quintana PhD, MSN, RN, CNOR-E

Background

- Amniotic fluid embolism (AFE): rare and often fatal, amniotic fluid enters the bloodstream of laboring and postpartum people causing a systemic inflammatory response (McBride, 2018).
- According to Fitzpatrick et al. (2019), 30-41% of people that develop AFE do not survive, or suffer permanent neurological damage, p
- AFE presents as cardiorespiratory arrest.
- Many nurses that have obtained their licensure in the last 3 years “are dominated by fear” (Valdez et al., 2021).
- Providing a continuing education course on signs and symptoms of AFE to new grad labor and delivery nurses should improve their confidence in identification and treatment of AFE.

PICOT Question

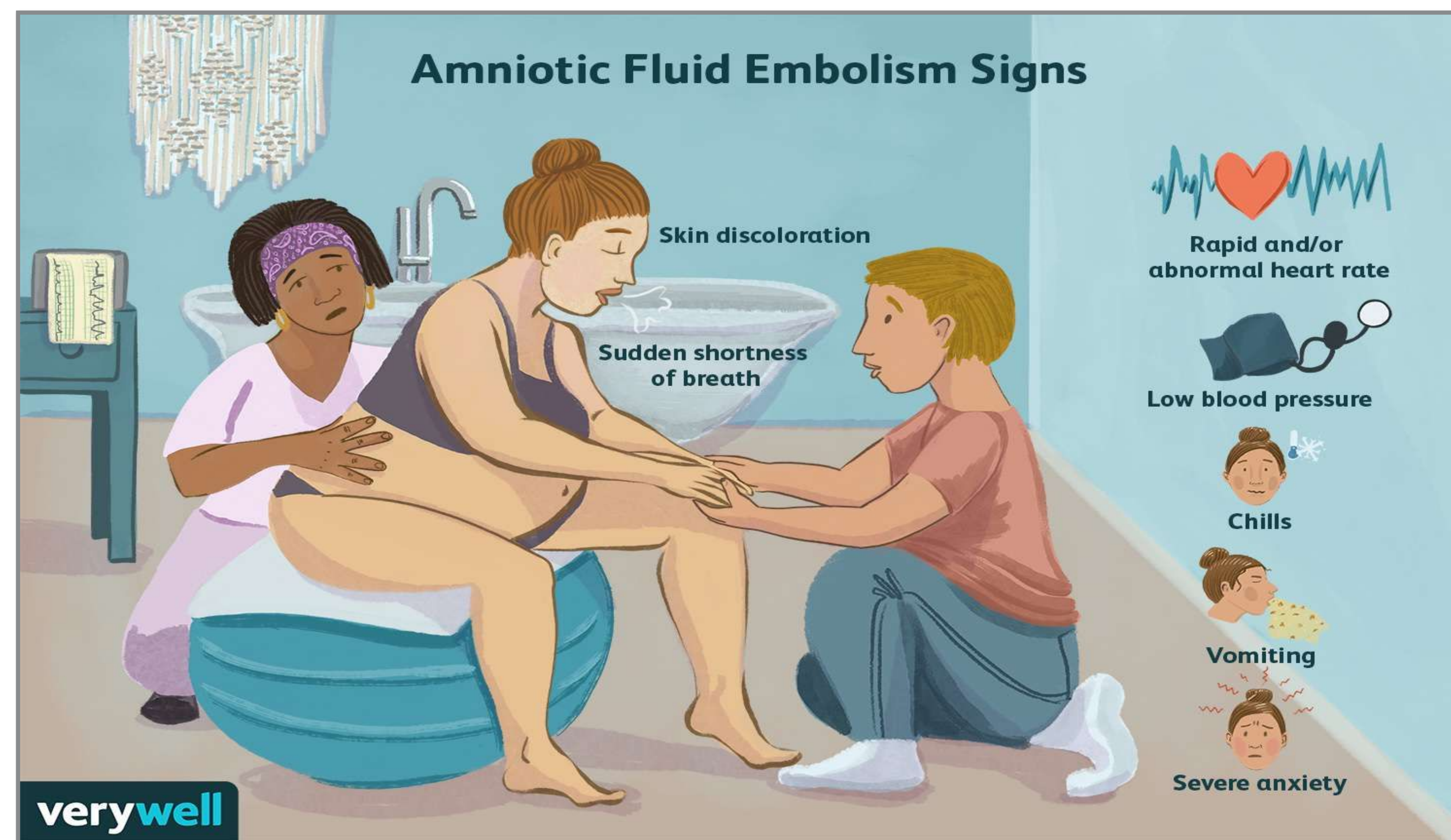
In labor and delivery nurses who obtained registered nursing licensure within the last 36 months, what is the effect of completing an in-service continuing education course on the signs and symptoms of amniotic fluid embolism in laboring people on their confidence in recognizing an amniotic fluid embolism compared with the confidence level of labor and delivery nurses who have obtained their registered nurse certification within the last 36 months that did not complete the CE course?

Literature Search

- CINAHL, MEDLINE and Health Sources: “amniotic fluid embolism”, “new grad nurses”, “education”
- Parameters: 2018-present, academic journals, and linked full text - 348 articles
- Select: focused on the clinical presentation, treatment, and outcomes of AFE, and new grad nurses' improvement in learning

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Olah, J. (2021). Amniotic fluid embolism: Signs, causes, treatment [Drawing]. Verywell. <https://www.verywellhealth.com/amniotic-fluid-embolism-signs-causes-treatment-5188966>

Synthesis of Findings

- New graduate nurses and midwives', competency scores and confidence levels in the intervention increase after the implementation of an educational course (Valdez et al., 2023; Zou et al., 2023). This demonstrates the importance of continuing education
- Prompt recognition and acts, upon presentation of AFE symptoms, improve patient outcome (McBride, 2018; Pacheco et al., 2020). Provides evidence for the necessary interventions when a nurse is presented with AFE.
- Early assessments and interventions are crucial to prevent severe coagulopathy in patients with a suspected AFE (Fitzpatrick et al., 2020; Oda et al., 2020). Information on what interventions were most successful and allowing inspiration for interventions.

Decision to Change

- Due to its rarity, labor and delivery nurses may not have enough knowledge in order to recognize AFE. New grad nurses are likely to have little or no exposure to this complication.
- Implementing a CE will increase the confidence levels of new-grad nurses in recognition of AFE, increasing proper response and decreasing the effects of AFE.
- Allowing new grad nurses to participate in an educational course on the signs and symptoms of AFE can greatly improve patient outcomes and decrease fatality in these emergent situations.

Evaluation

- Evaluate after CE course to new graduate nurses through a questionnaire, such as the confidence scale (Grundy, 2018), in which rate their confidence in recognition of medical emergencies.
- Effective if the confidence levels in the recognition and intervention of emergencies improved.
- After 3-month implementation period, the CE course will increase the confidence levels of new-grad nurses in recognition of AFE by 6 times
- The Confidence scale (Grundy, 2018) administered in pretest posttest design to determine levels of confidence in recognition of AFE before and after intervention.

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