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Beat to Beat: Implementing a Tailored Literature Review e- Newsletter for a Multidisciplinary Subspecialty Group

Shashank Behere, MD
Nemours/Al Dupont Hospital for Children

Steven Ritz, MD
Nemours/Al Dupont Hospital for Children

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INTRODUCTION

Members of a multidisciplinary care team strive to practice evidence based medicine. A pediatric cardiac center is no exception to this. It is very challenging to routinely keep abreast of literature that is high quality, recent, pertinent to the multiple disciplines, relevant to recent issues and cases encountered at the institution and encompasses multiple journals across the world.

OBJECTIVE

To increase availability and exposure to recent, relevant, reliable literature from a range of sources, for a multidisciplinary cardiac center, by creating an e-newsletter summarizing articles of interest.

METHODS

Needs assessment survey was conducted of all members of the cardiac center with direct patient care responsibilities. Based on the needs assessment survey responses, a monthly e-newsletter, "*Beat to Beat*" (*figure 2*) was started with the goal of summarizing 5 to 10 articles published in the preceding month, from a wide range of sources. A link to the Pubmed abstract was provided with each summary. An updated list of the journals covered in the e-newsletter was provided.

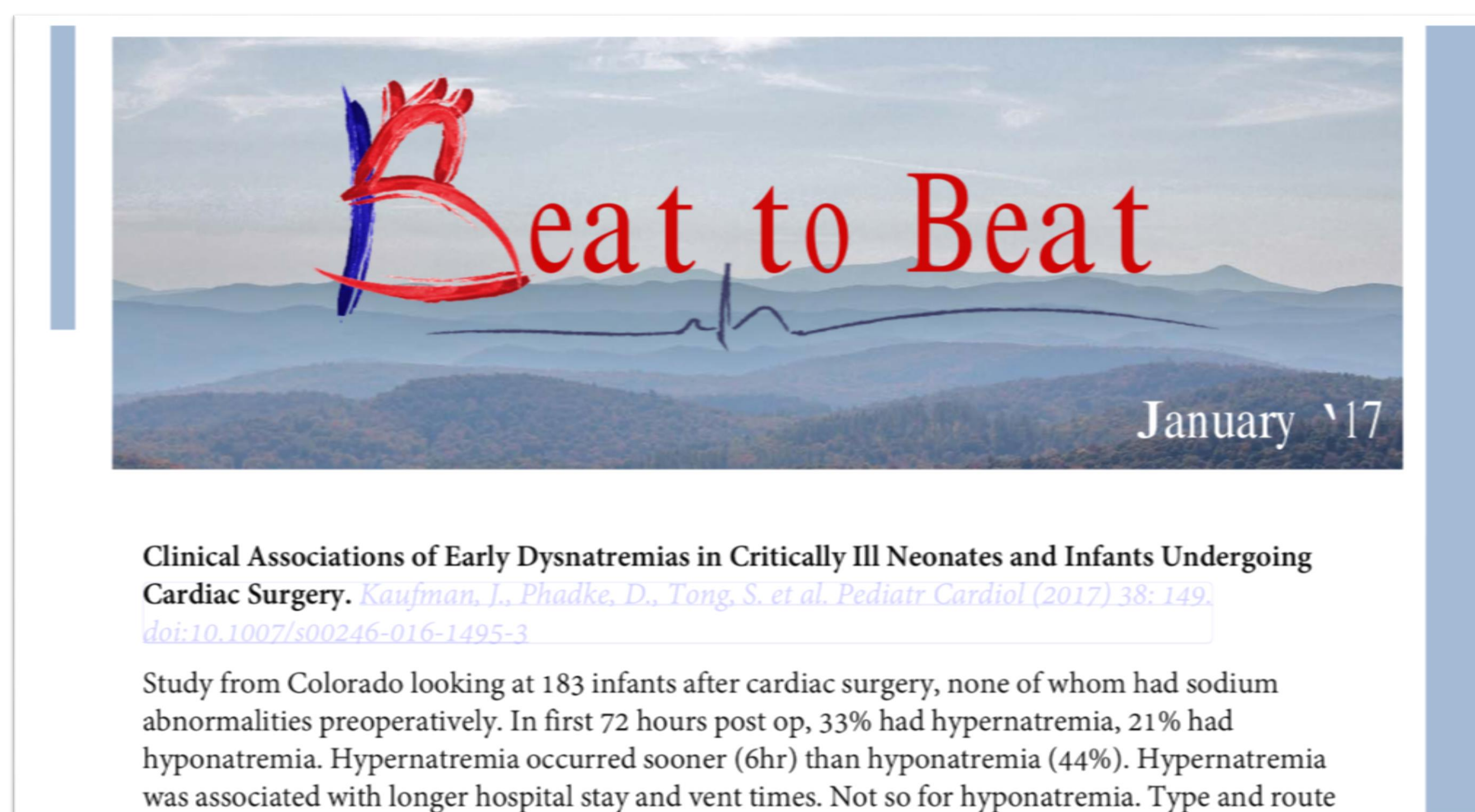
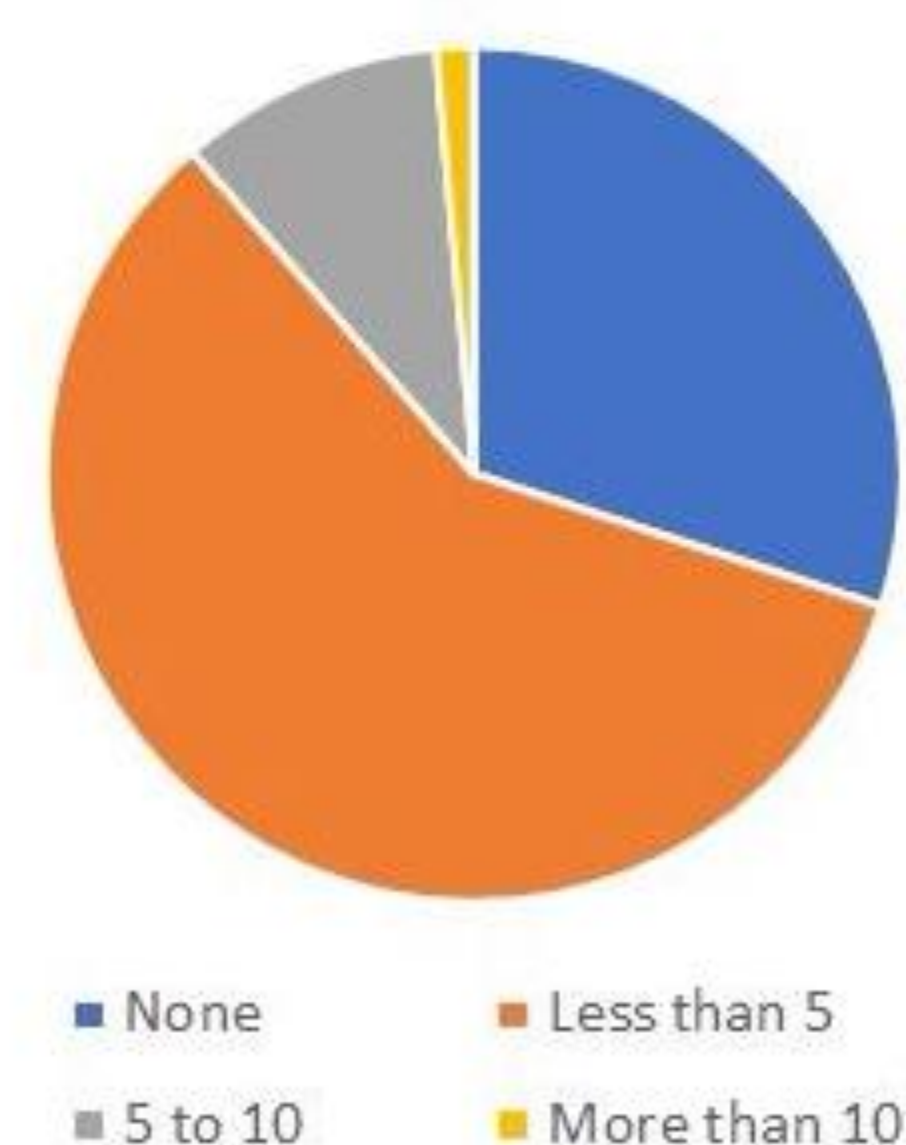
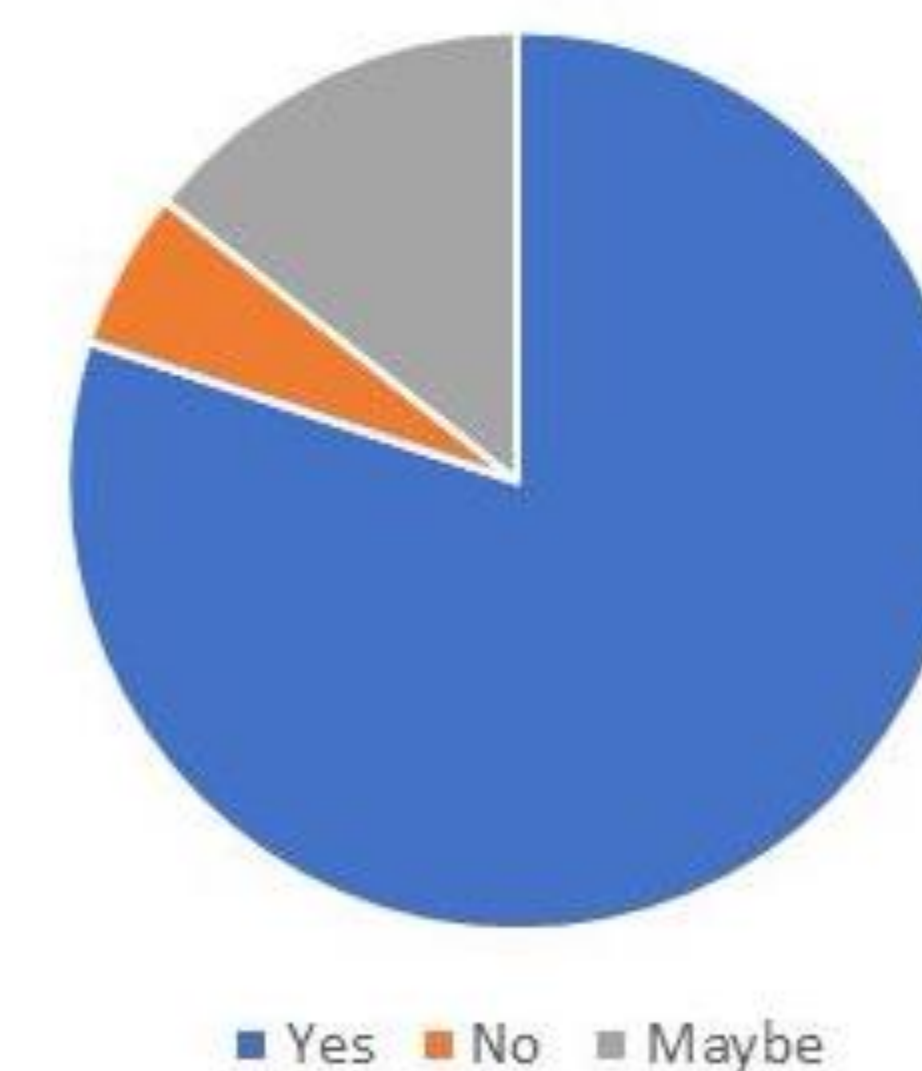


Figure 1. Front page excerpt of newsletter

How many journals pertaining to congenital heart disease do you routinely browse each month?



Would you like to browse more journals than you are currently able to?



Would a newsletter compiling article summaries from multiple publications help increase your exposure to pertinent literature?



Figure 2. Results of needs assessment survey

RESULTS OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The survey had 70 respondents (42.6% response rate) (*figure 2*). 89% browsed less than 5 pediatric cardiology journals monthly. 84% were able to acquaint themselves with only five or less articles from an average month. The majority (80%) desired to browse more journals than they could currently. The majority (94%) agreed that an e-newsletter compiling article summaries from multiple publications would help increase their exposure to pertinent literature. The preferred frequency for such an e-newsletter was monthly (60%), and most commonly desired size was 5-10 articles (57%). 79% felt that they would be more likely to read other articles from the same journal if they found an article of interest.

PROGRESS AND FUTURE DIRECTION

The *Beat-to-Beat* e-newsletter is currently published monthly. We intend to perform a post intervention survey after 6 months and 12 months, to assess respondents' literature review habits, assess the utility of the e-newsletter and identify future directions for improvement. Other groups within the institute (neonatology, intensive care) have also joined the e-newsletter distribution list. We plan to increase the number of cardiology journals covered. As the e-newsletter grows we envision selecting articles to cater to the growing readership, considering an increase in number of articles and considering expansion to other cardiac audiences. An important future consideration will be addressing the longevity, legacy and ownership of the e-newsletter by considering a group approach to editorship.

CONCLUSION

A brief e-newsletter may be an innovative way to improve access, heighten awareness and expand readership of recent, reliable, and relevant literature within a specialty, tailored for an individual institution or group with a multidisciplinary team.