

# Junior Doctor's Opinions of the Surgical Ward Round

V. Thakur, M. Williams, C. Tristem, G. McCabe

## Background

## Surgical Ward Rounds

Surgical ward rounds (SWRs) are a major determinant of patient outcomes (1)(2)

Junior doctors tend to document.

Often the least consistent members of SWRs.

Difficulties in grasping their role and the preferences of senior staff.

Exploring opinions of junior doctors about:

- Their role in SWRs
- Efficacy of SWRs

Essential in improving documentation and safety.

## Aim

## Method

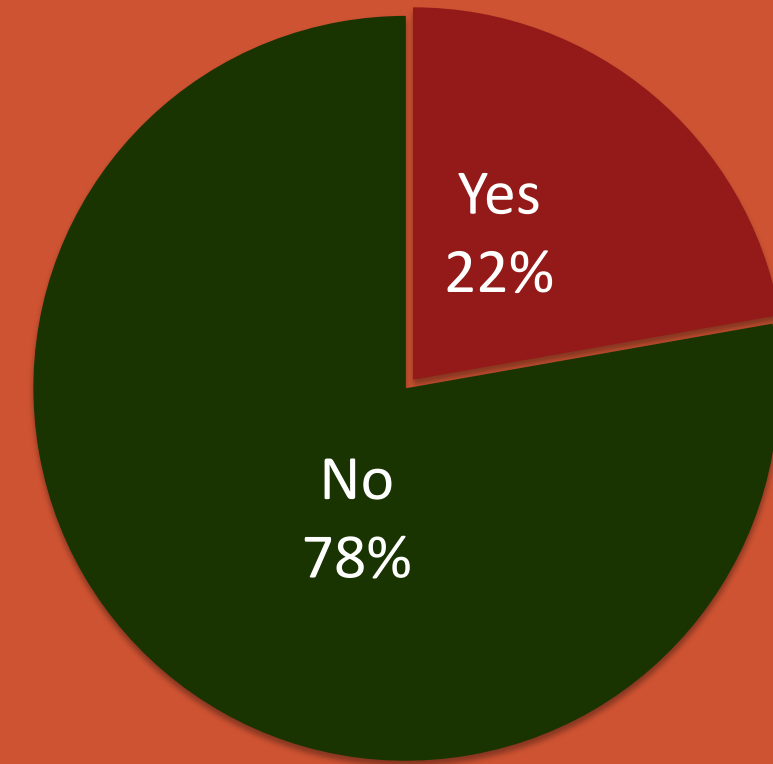
RCSEd SHINE Surgical ward round toolkit - questionnaire for FY1 and FY2s.

- Single-answer MCQs with nominal scale
- Open text

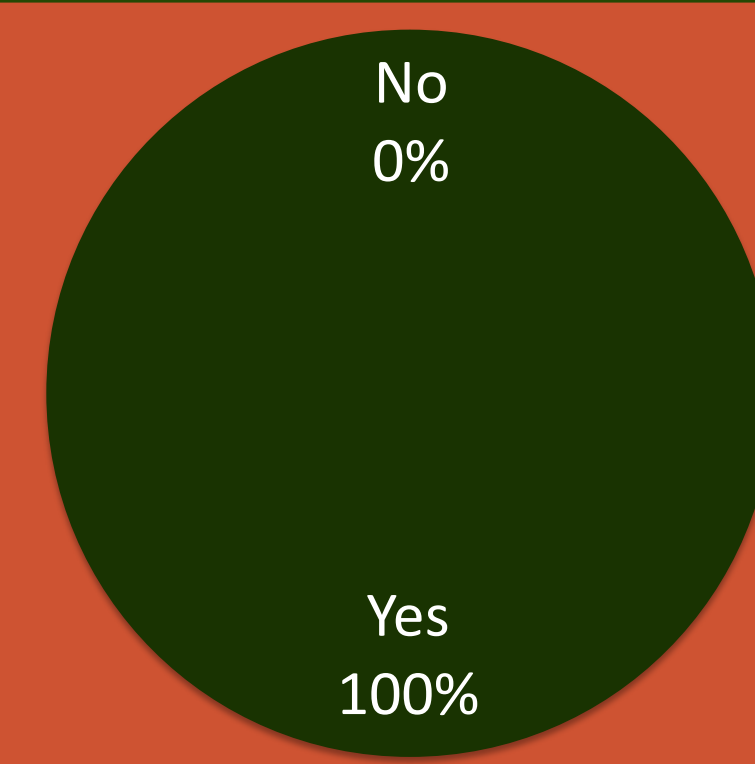
## Result

9 responses from 25/1 to 16/3/22, VHK: Gen Surg, ENT, Urol, Ortho

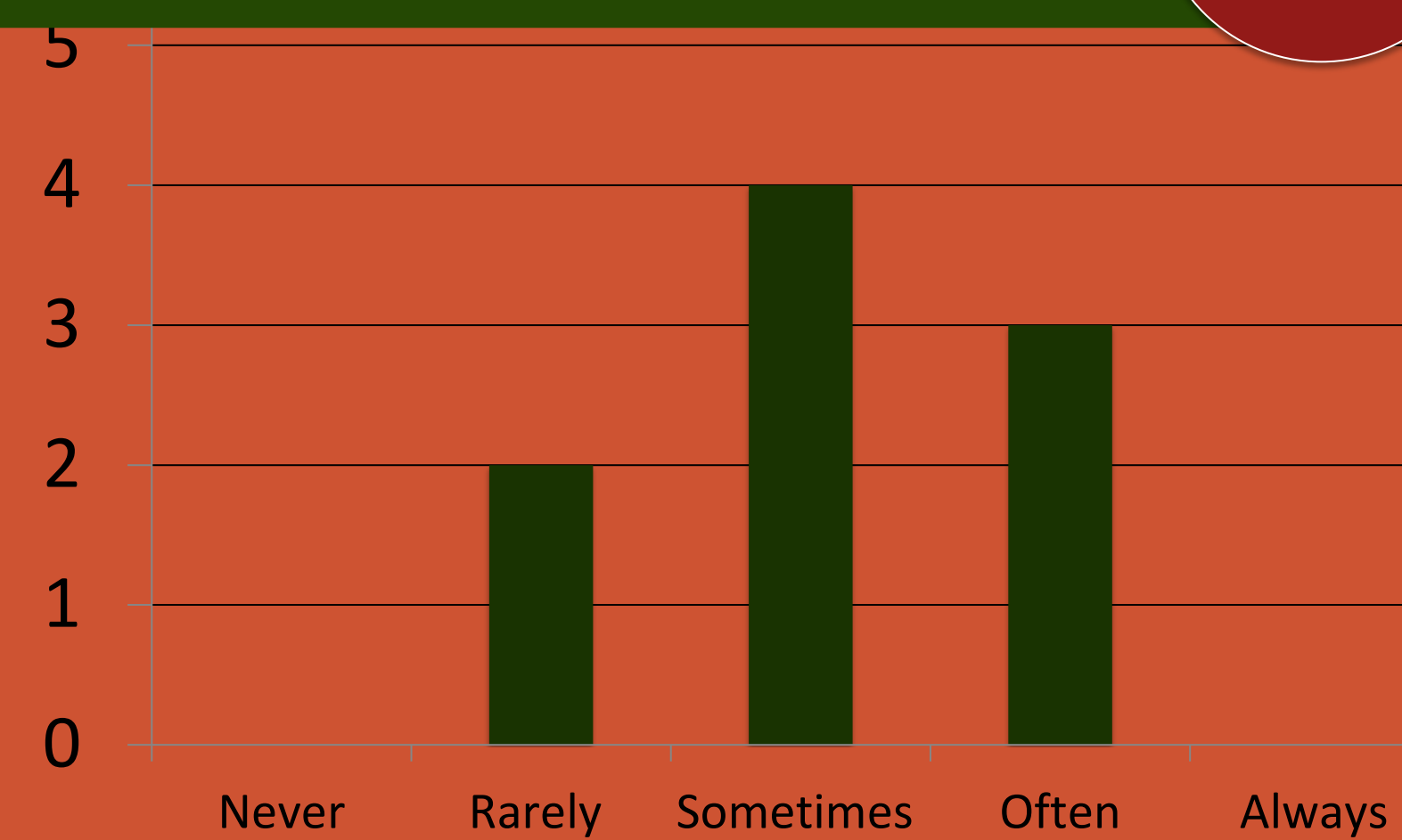
Do you have enough time to document everything?



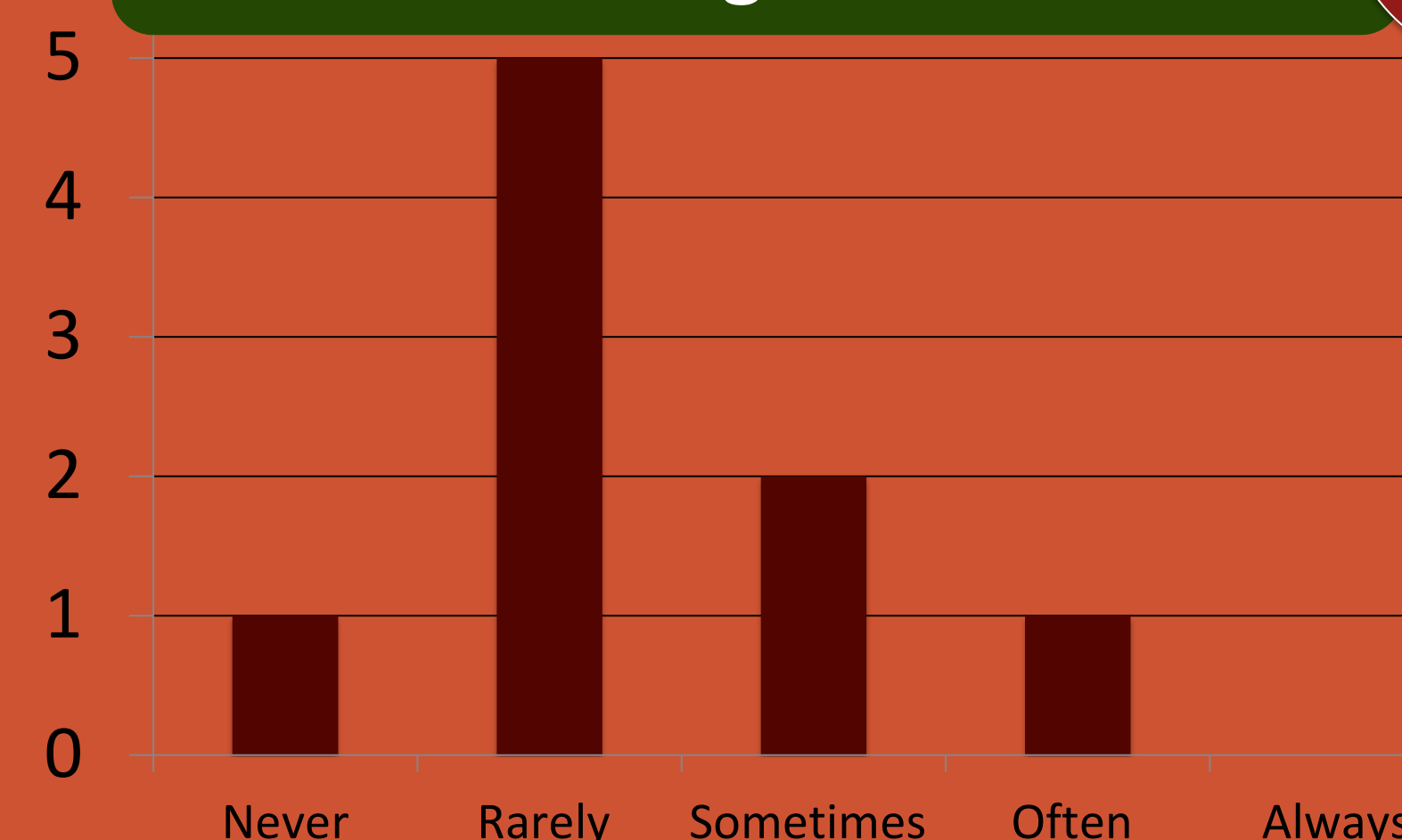
Do you feel rushed during ward round?



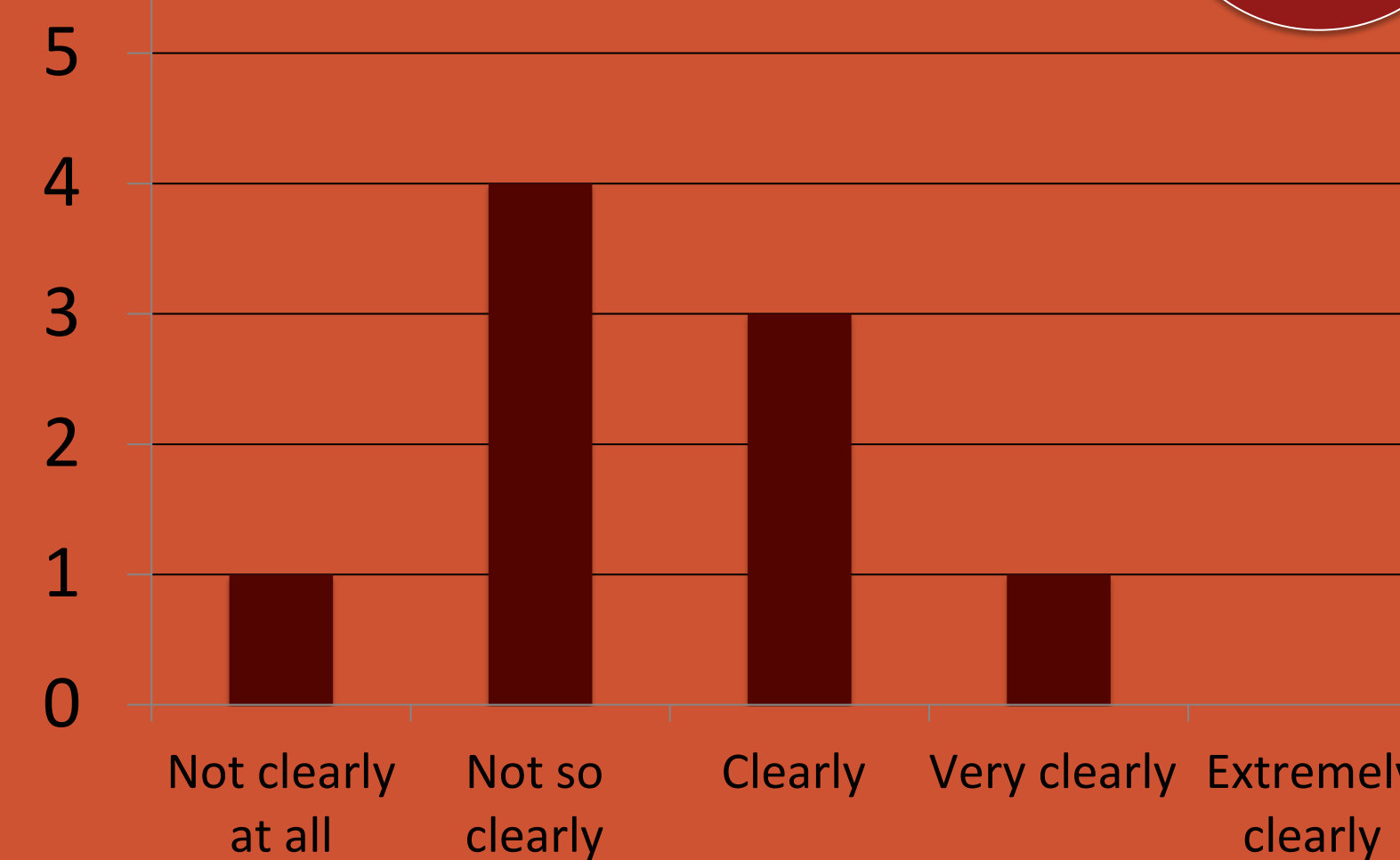
Are you able to voice concerns?



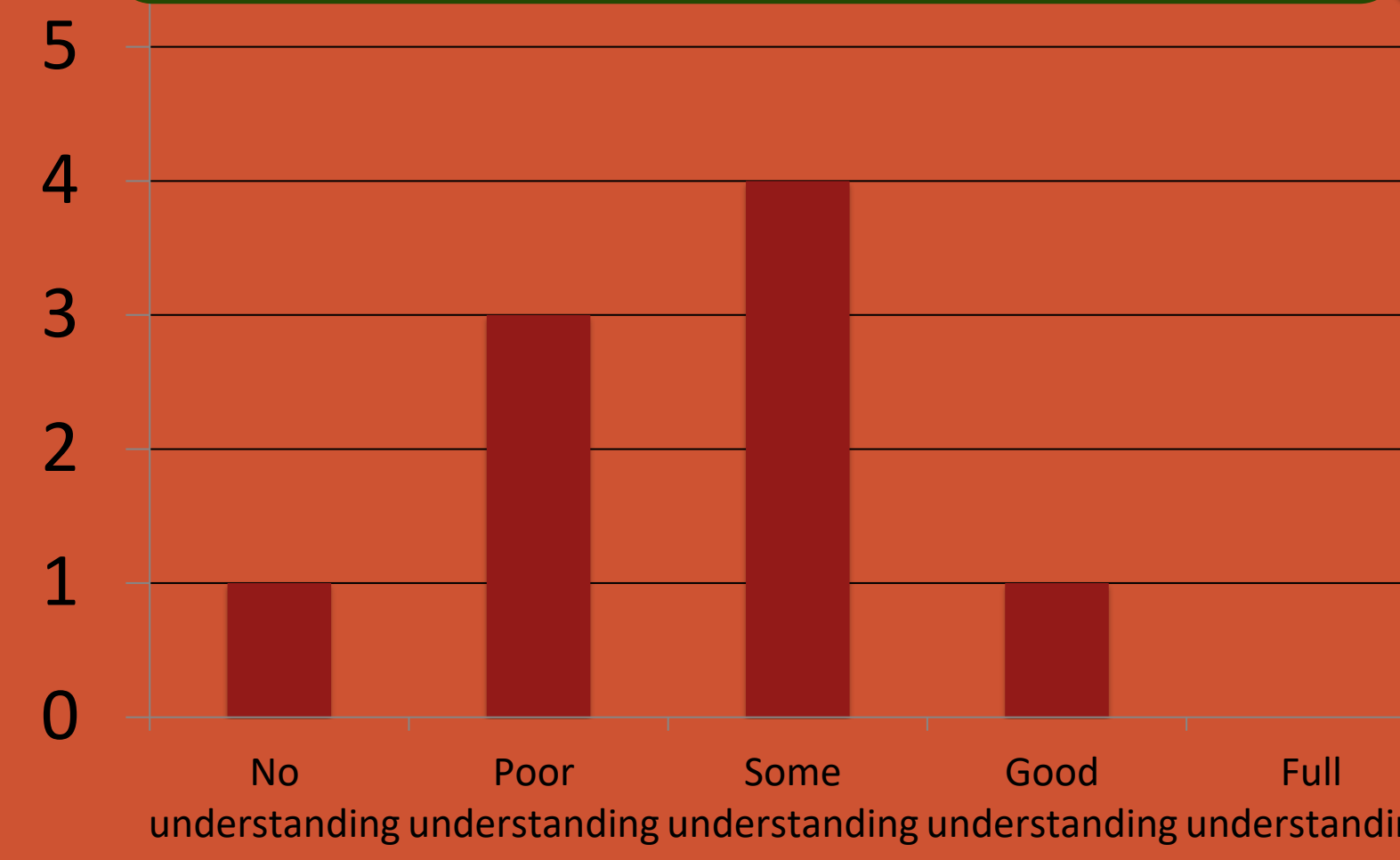
Do you feel involved in discussing and documenting ACPs?



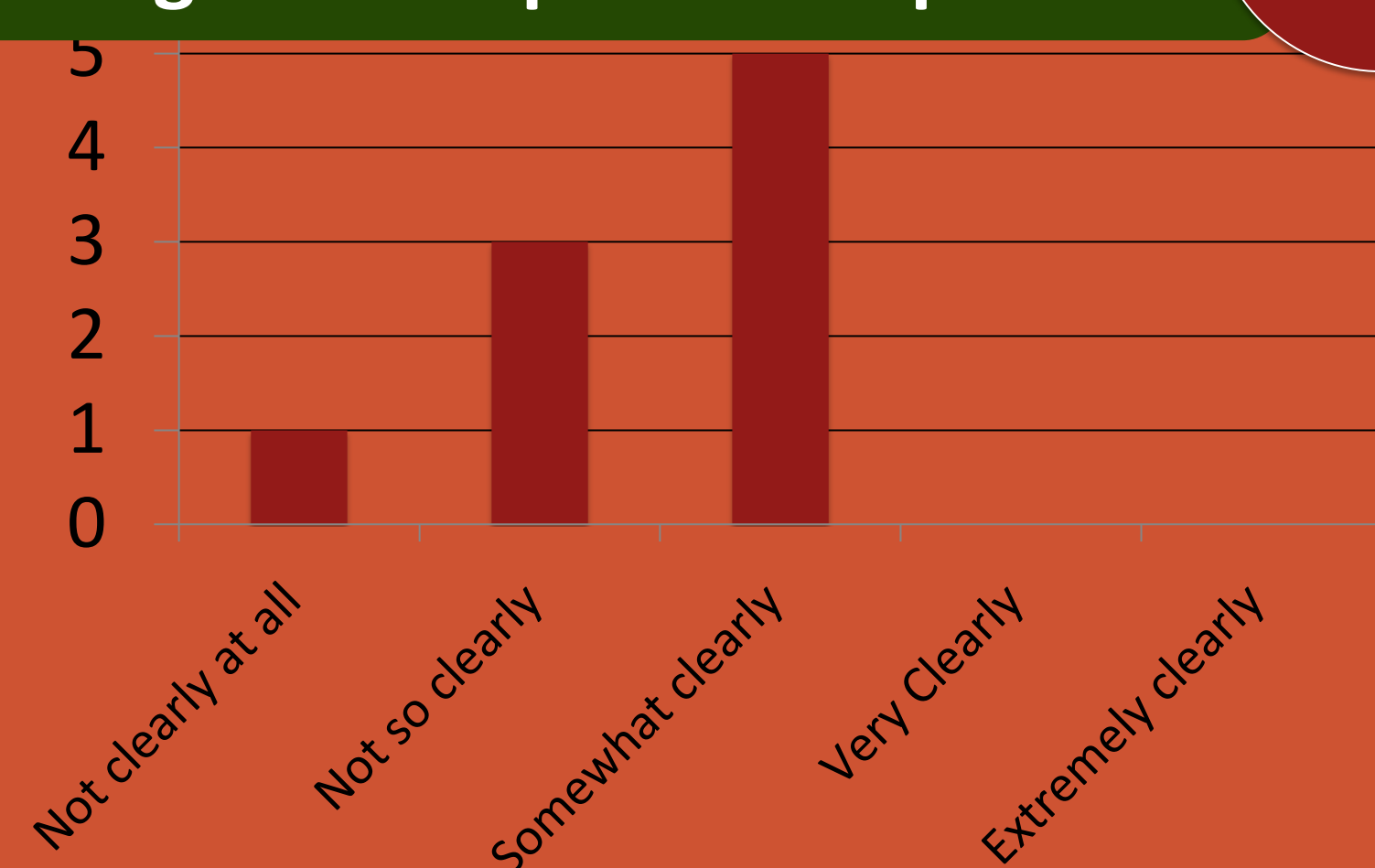
How clearly do you understand patients' individual plans?



How well do you think patient understand their plans?



How clearly are result of investigations explained to patients?



How would you describe the team environment of the ward round?

“Efficient, senior led” “Friendly”  
 “Hectic, chaotic, stressful”  
 “Each surgical specialty works very differently”  
 “Often quite hostile, especially when first starting”

What aspects of the ward round are done well?

“Good timekeeping, friendly patient interaction, ANP always reviews medications for each patient and highlights any issues”  
 “changes quickly implemented”

What aspects of the ward round could be improved?

“Specific roles... being semi-allocated, a pause between wards to ensure everyone is happy with plans/jobs... ‘micro-teaching.’”

## Conclusion

Junior Doctors felt:

- Rushed -> Unclear on plans.
- SWRs varied significantly depending on senior lead.

Junior Doctors appreciated:

- When roles are allocated
- Time efficiency

Areas for improvement:

- Consistency
- Time to document
- Clarifying plans

## References

- (1) Pucher PH, Aggarwal R, Darzi A. Surgical ward round quality and impact on variable patient outcomes. Ann Surg. 2014 Feb;259(2):222-6. doi: 10.1097/SLA.0000000000000376. PMID: 24263319.
- (2) Klingensmith ME. Ward rounds and patient outcome: be attentive or suffer the peril. Ann Surg. 2014 Feb;259(2):227-8. doi: 10.1097/SLA.0000000000000493. PMID: 24398924.