

# Can You Catch The Rhythm?

## Diagnosing Confidence, Knowledge Gaps and Training Needs in Neonatal and Paediatric ECG Interpretation: A National Survey

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Accurate ECG interpretation in newborns and children is vital, yet many paediatric clinicians report low confidence and knowledge gaps.

We conducted an anonymous online survey for neonatologists and paediatricians across the UK in May 2025. The quiz included ten ECG questions with immediate feedback while also assessing pre- and post-confidence self-ratings, their medical roles, ECG exposure, educational background, perceived barriers, and challenging ECGs.

Participants

**223**

Average Score

**7.16/10**

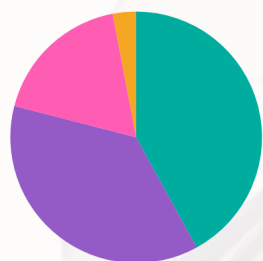
Pre-Quiz Confidence

**3.8/5**

Post-Quiz Confidence

**4.3/5**

### Participants by role:



- Consultants (42%)
- Registrars/SAs (37%)
- SHOs (18%)
- Other HCPs (3%)

### ECG Exposure:



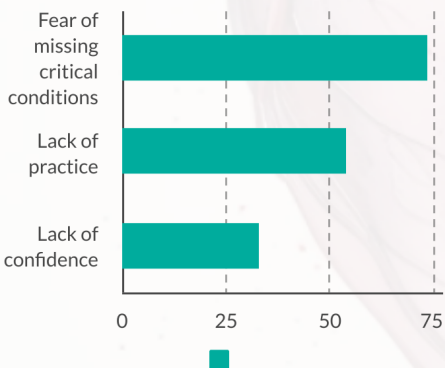
- < monthly (18.4%)
- 1-2x monthly (36.8%)
- more often (22.4%)
- weekly (22.4%)

### Confidence:

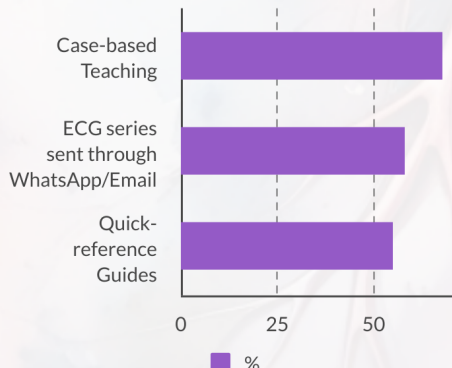


- Confident (46.77%)
- Input from senior clinician (35.85%)
- Input from PEC/Cardiologist (17.38%)

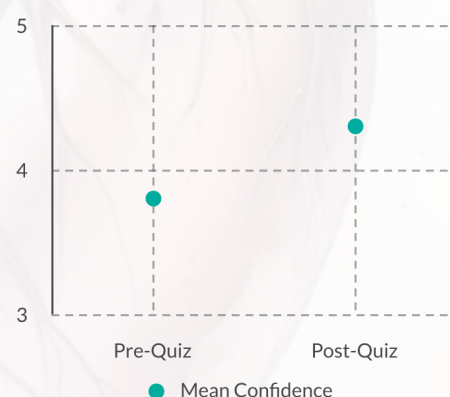
### Main Barriers:



### Perferred Methods:



### Mean Confidence:



### Conclusion:

The results showed a discrepancy between self-assessment and actual performance since some respondents scored well despite low confidence, and vice versa.

Confidence improved from a mean of **3.8 to 4.3** on a 5-point scale post-quiz, with the largest gain seen in initially underconfident participants (+1.5).

**This survey highlights a gap between confidence and competence in neonatal ECG interpretation. Thus, we recommend the integration of concise, feedback-focused tools to enhance ECG skills and confidence.**