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Recognizing Tick Bites and Risk: An Educational Initiative for Summer Camp Nurses

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Background

There is a high risk of tick-borne diseases in the summer camp environment. Rapid nursing assessment is essential in identifying camper risk and for the provision of prophylactic antibiotics.

Aims

- 1) Modify existing evidence-based standing orders for the provision of post-tick exposure prophylactic antibiotics
- 2) Development of a rapid assessment tool
- 3) Propose implementation strategies

Methods

Needs assessment

- Barriers to tick exposure assessment and independent utilization of an existing evidence-based protocol

Protocol revision

- To include rapid assessment tool

Camp nurse dissemination

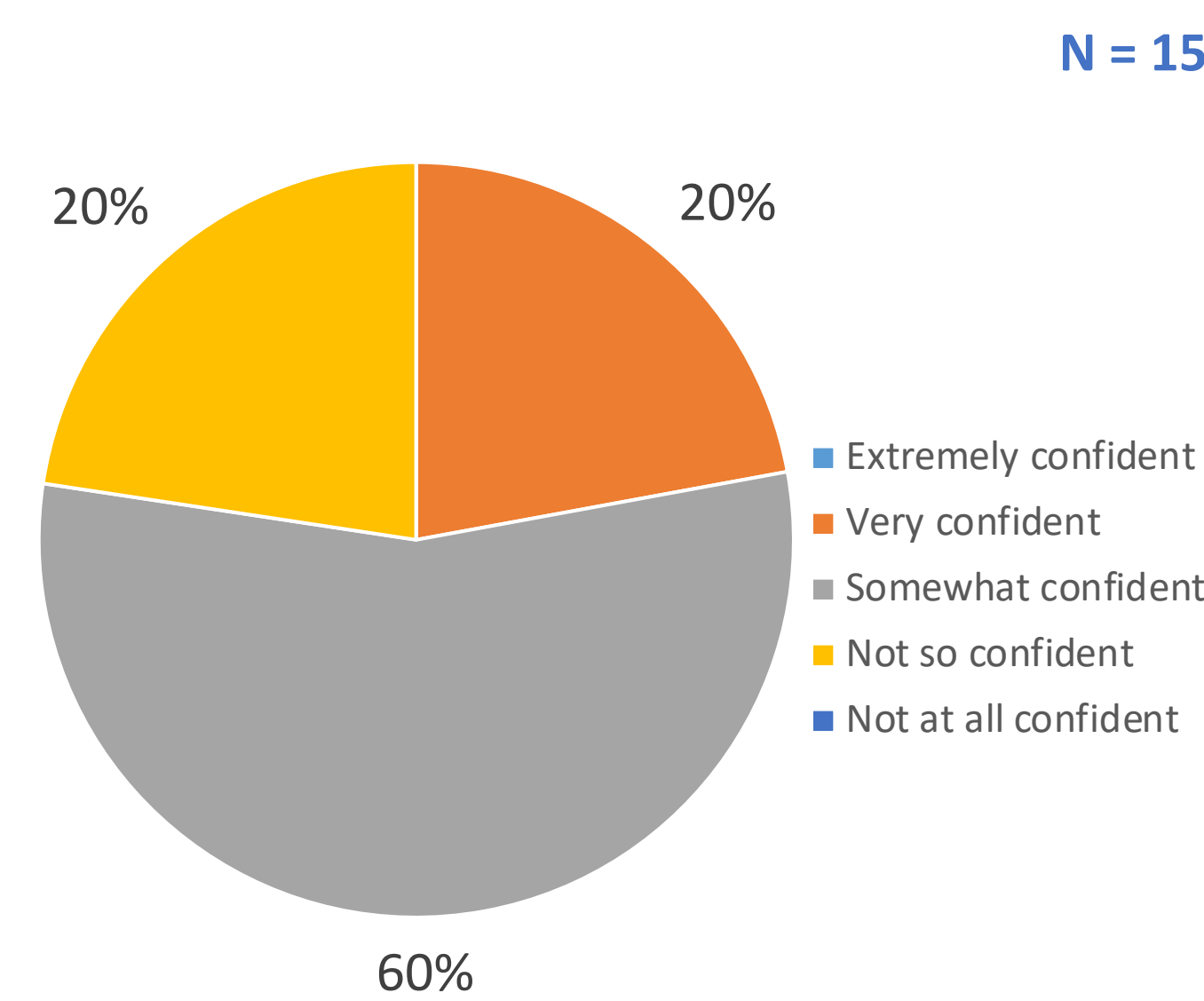
- Updated protocol
- Educational PowerPoint

Ethical Considerations

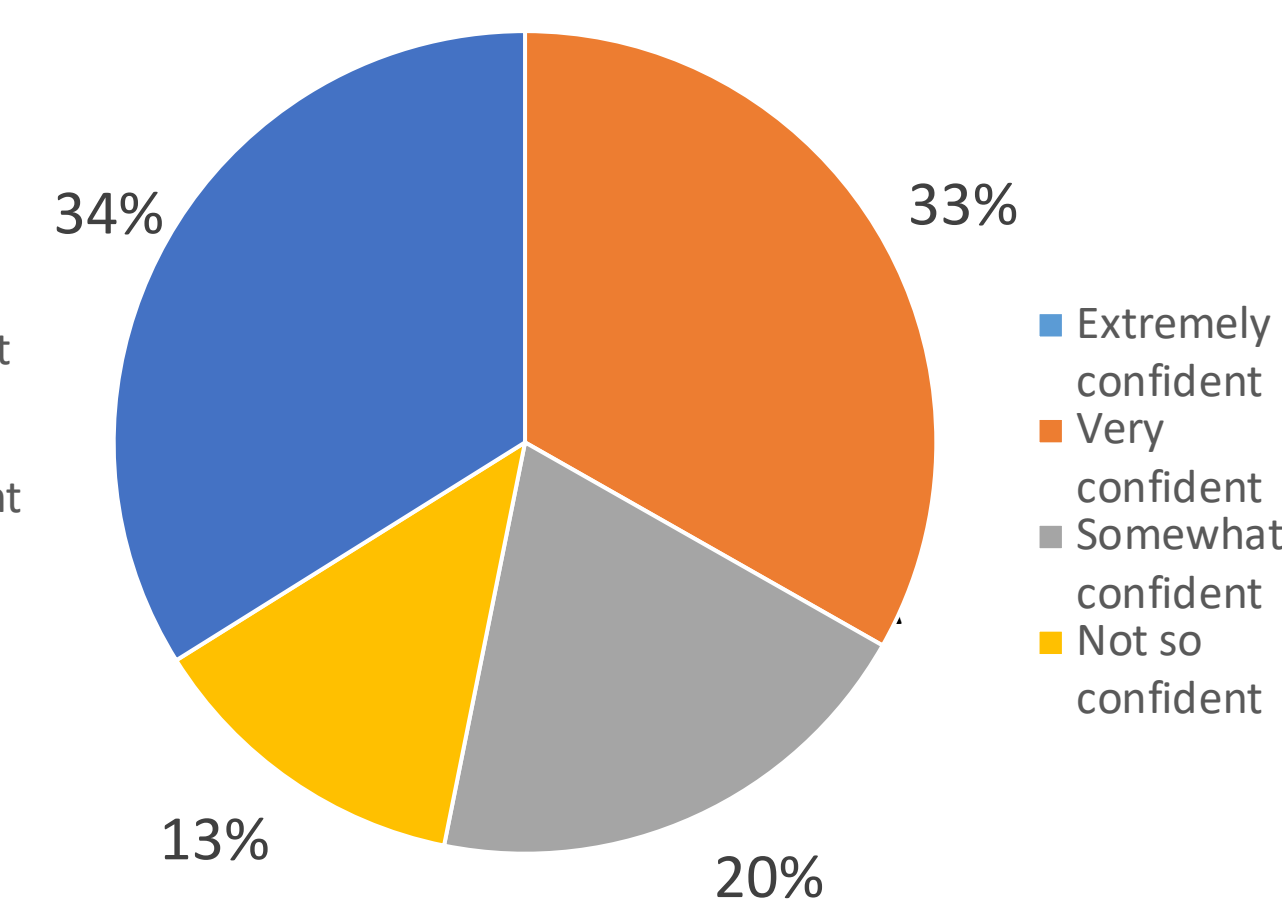
- Deemed not research by the University of Vermont Research Protections Office

Needs Assessment

How confident do you feel with your assessment skills as it relates to camper tick exposure and risk for development of a tick-borne illness?

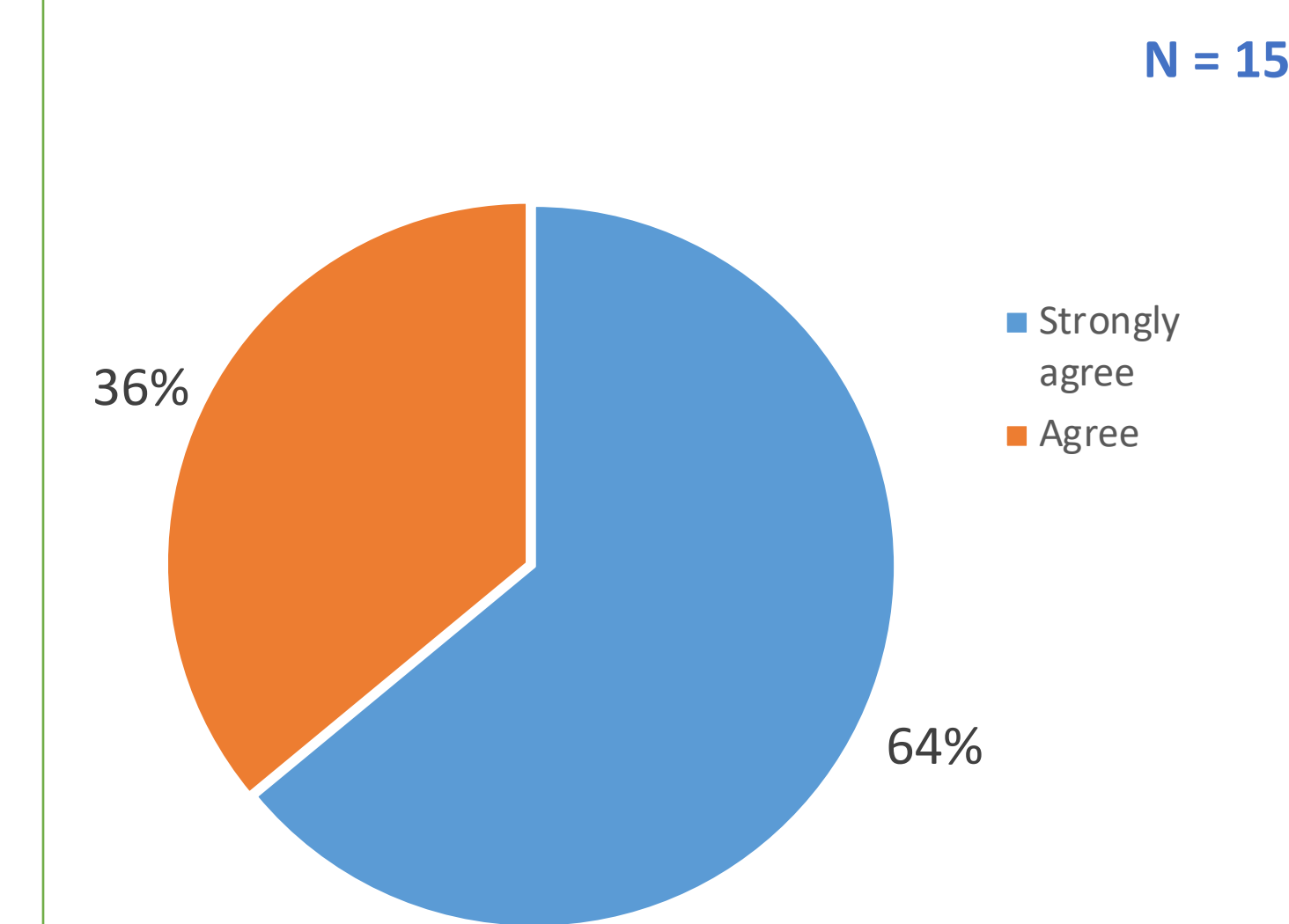


How confident do you feel independently initiating the post-tick exposure antibiotic prophylaxis protocol?

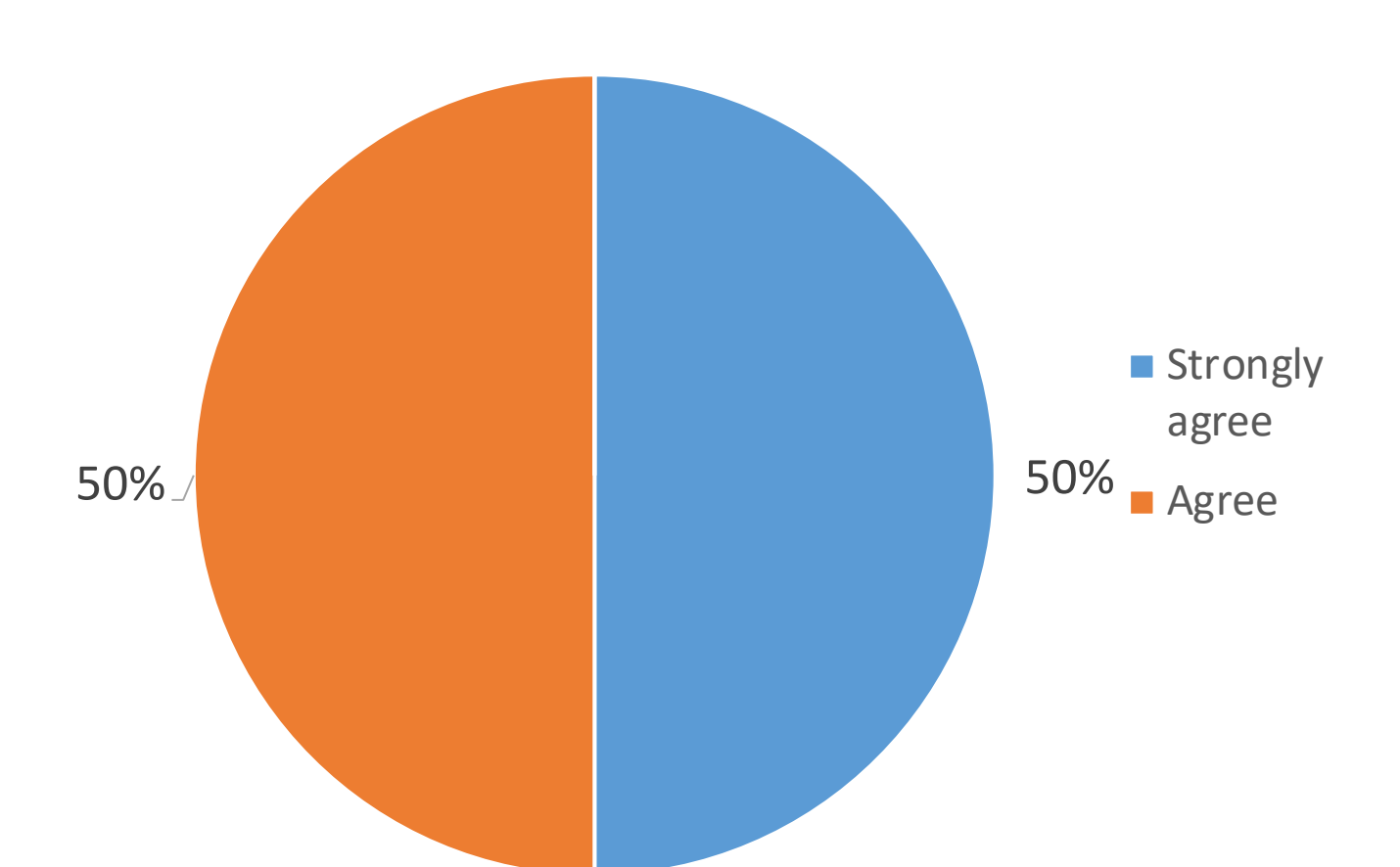


Results

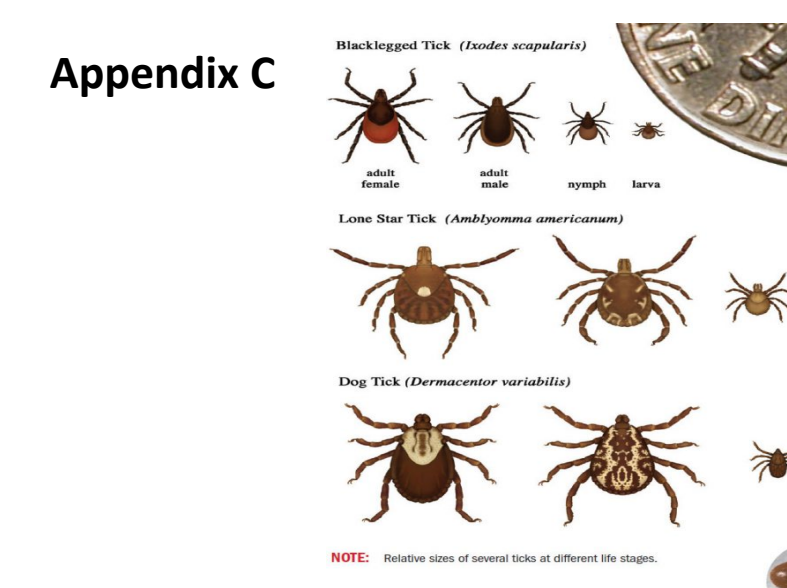
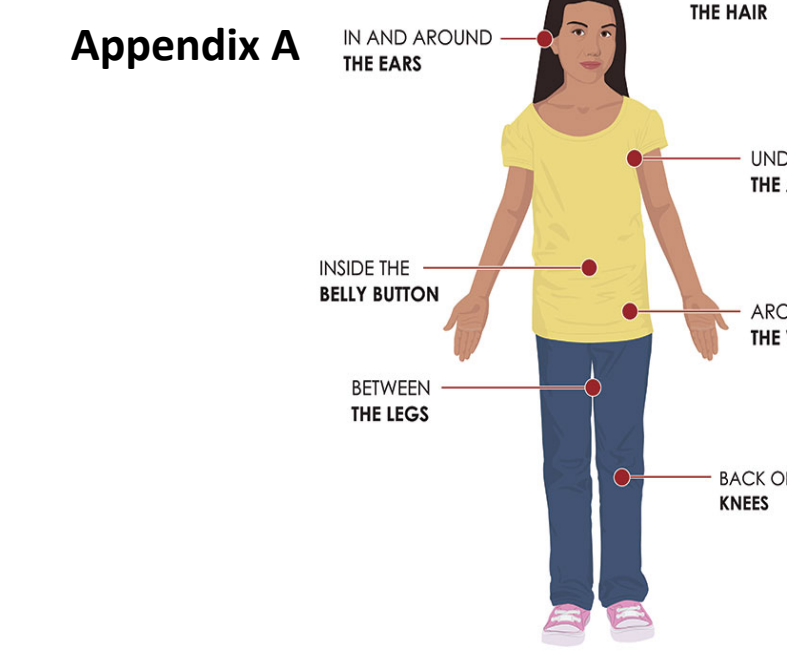
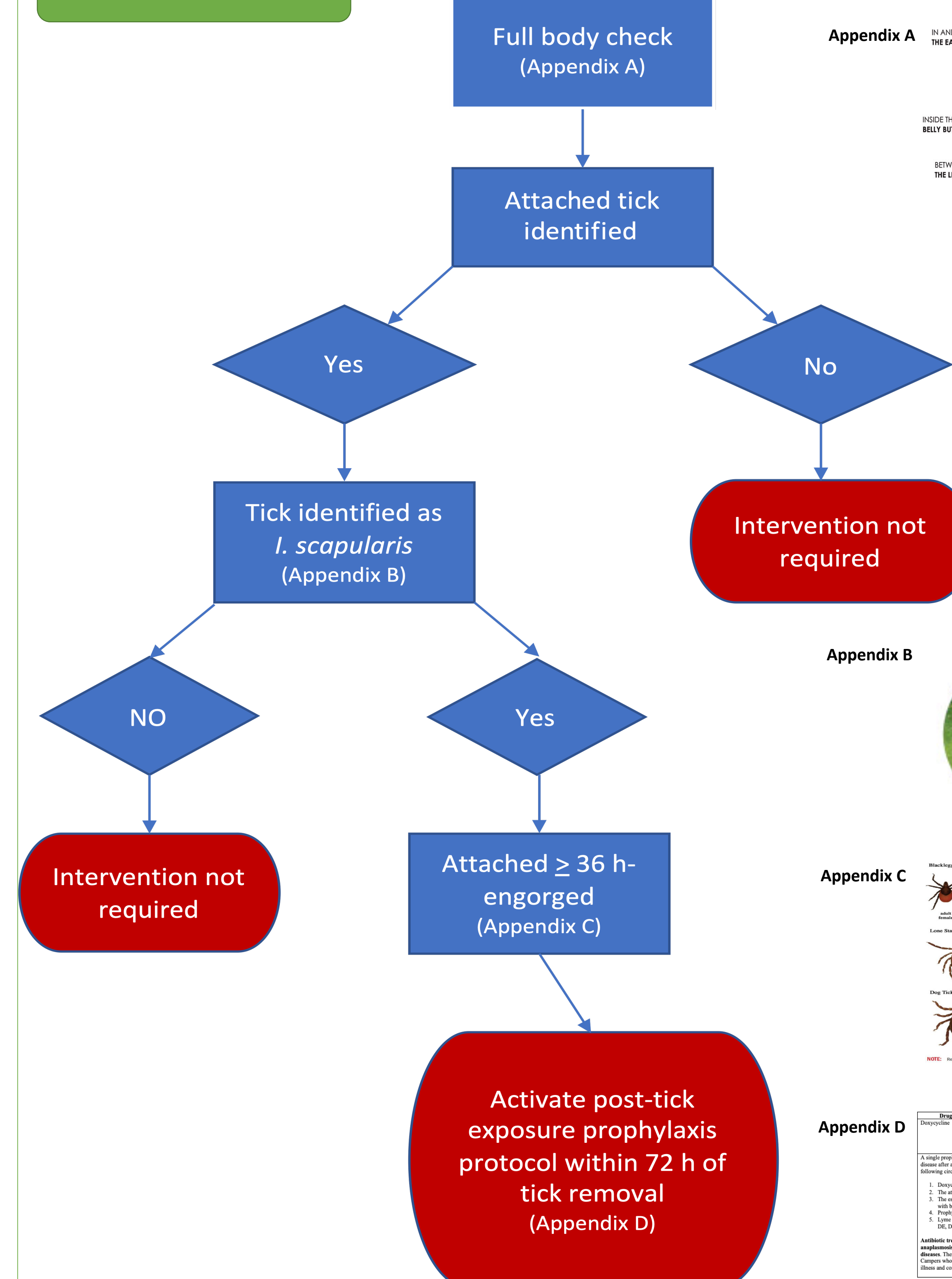
After review of the rapid tick exposure assessment tool, my confidence in my tick exposure assessment skills has increased.



After review of the rapid tick exposure assessment tool, I feel confident independently activating the post-tick exposure prophylaxis protocol.



Rapid Assessment Tool



Appendix D

Drug	Dosage	Frequency	Duration
Doxycycline	100 mg	Twice daily	7 days
Ceftriaxone	1 g	Once daily	7 days

Discussion

- Increased nurse confidence with assessment skills
- Increased nurse confidence independently initiating prophylaxis
- Revised protocol to be included in camp standing orders
- Will be included in nurse pre-camp medical orientation

Conclusions

- Knowledge gaps and barriers addressed with protocol.
- Future research includes evaluation of protocol utilization and incidence of tick-borne disease at summer camps

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). *Tick bite prophylaxis*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/tickbornediseases/tick-bite-prophylaxis.html>

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Mead, P., Hook, S., Niesobecki, S., Ray, J., Meeck, J., Delorey, M., Prue, C. & Hinckley, A. (2018). Risk factors for tick exposure in suburban settings in the Northeastern United States. *Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases*, 9(2), 319-324. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ttbdis.2017.11.006>