



A Comparative Survey of Obstetric and Gynaecological Practices in Djibouti: An African Regional Analysis

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Abstract

Obstetric and gynaecological care in Africa varies considerably due to differences in resources, training, and cultural contexts. Djibouti's distinct socio-economic and geographical position makes it a relevant setting for examining regional practice patterns, yet a systematic comparison with broader African trends is absent. This study aimed to document and compare current obstetric and gynaecological practices in Djibouti with generalised practices across African regions. Its objectives were to identify key areas of alignment and divergence in clinical management, resource utilisation, and adherence to international guidelines. A cross-sectional survey was conducted using a structured questionnaire distributed to obstetricians and gynaecologists practising in Djibouti. The instrument captured data on routine clinical practices, available resources, and common interventions. Responses were analysed descriptively and compared against synthesised data from published surveys on general African regional practices. Notable divergences were identified, particularly in resource availability and management protocols. For example, while ultrasound use in antenatal care is nearly universal in reported African regional data, access in Djibouti was reported by only 65% of respondents. Qualitative responses from Djibouti highlighted frequent improvisation and protocol adaptation due to resource constraints. Obstetric and gynaecological practices in Djibouti demonstrate both convergence with and distinct divergence from broader African regional patterns, primarily driven by infrastructural and resource limitations. This underscores the heterogeneity of healthcare delivery within the continent. Targeted investment in diagnostic infrastructure, particularly imaging, is required. The development of context-specific clinical guidelines that acknowledge resource constraints while promoting evidence-based care is recommended. Further comparative research across specific African sub-regions is encouraged. Comparative medicine, obstetric practices, gynaecology, survey, Djibouti, Africa This survey provides a comparative analysis of clinical practices in a specific African setting, highlighting how local resource realities shape care. It contributes to a more nuanced understanding of regional healthcare variation and identifies priorities for capacity strengthening.

Keywords: *Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Sub-Saharan Africa, Comparative Survey, Maternal Health, Healthcare Disparities, Medical Practice Variation*



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