



A Systematic Review of Comparative Medicine Studies in Ghana: An African Perspective,

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Abstract

Comparative medicine, which examines health and disease across species to inform human medicine, is an underexplored field in many African contexts. In Ghana, such research holds potential for addressing locally prevalent diseases, but its scope and impact from an African perspective are not well synthesised. This systematic review aimed to identify, appraise, and synthesise existing comparative medicine research conducted in Ghana. Its objective was to map the key themes, methodologies, and gaps in this field to inform future research and policy. A systematic search was performed across multiple electronic databases for peer-reviewed literature. Pre-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied. Study selection, data extraction, and quality assessment were conducted independently by two reviewers, with discrepancies resolved through discussion. The search yielded a limited number of eligible studies. A prominent theme was the investigation of zoonotic and parasitic diseases, with a significant focus on the comparative pathology of malaria and trypanosomiasis. Research was frequently constrained by limited funding and laboratory infrastructure. This review synthesises the characteristics and reported outcomes of the included literature; it does not report empirical results from primary studies. Comparative medicine research in Ghana is nascent and fragmented, with a clear concentration on infectious diseases of public health importance. While offering valuable insights, the field requires more structured development and investment to realise its full potential for contributing to medical knowledge and health outcomes. Future research should diversify into non-communicable diseases and expand methodological rigour. Increased funding, capacity building, and the establishment of dedicated research networks are essential. Integrating a One Health approach could strengthen the relevance and application of findings. Comparative medicine, One Health, Ghana, Africa, zoonoses, systematic review. This review provides a foundational synthesis of comparative medicine research in Ghana, highlighting its current focus and limitations. It offers evidence to guide strategic investment and the development of a more coherent, impactful research agenda for the region.

Keywords: *Comparative medicine, One Health, Zoonoses, Ghana, Africa, Sub-Saharan, Translational research*



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