



# Digitalisation and Telemedicine in Urban Egypt: An Analysis of Obstetric and Gynaecological Care Access,

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## Abstract

The digitalisation of healthcare, including telemedicine, could improve service delivery. Its specific application within obstetrics and gynaecology in urban African settings requires detailed analysis to understand its effect on care access. This study aimed to analyse the evolution, current state, and perceived impact of digitalisation and telemedicine on access to obstetric and gynaecological care in urban Egypt. A mixed-methods approach was employed, comprising a systematic review of policy and grey literature, analysis of healthcare utilisation statistics, and semi-structured interviews with healthcare providers and patients in major urban centres. Telemedicine adoption increased significantly, particularly for routine consultations and follow-up care. Over 60% of provider interviewees reported using digital platforms for patient communication. However, significant barriers persisted, including digital literacy gaps, concerns over diagnostic accuracy for certain conditions, and reimbursement challenges. Digitalisation has substantially altered the landscape of urban obstetric and gynaecological care in Egypt, improving access for many. Its integration remains partial, complementing rather than replacing traditional in-person care due to persistent technical and systemic barriers. Policymakers should focus on developing standardised telemedicine guidelines for the specialty, investing in digital literacy programmes for patients, and creating sustainable funding models. Further research should explore long-term clinical outcomes and equity of access across different socioeconomic groups. Telemedicine, digital health, obstetrics, gynaecology, healthcare access, urban health, Egypt This research provides an evidence-based analysis of digital health integration in a major urban African context, offering insights for clinicians and policymakers aiming to enhance women's healthcare services through technology.

**Keywords:** *telemedicine, digital health, obstetric care, gynaecology, urban Africa, healthcare access, Egypt*



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