

Provision of Reproductive Healthcare to Women with Disabilities: A Survey of Obstetrician–Gynecologists’ Training, Practices, and Perceived Barriers

The definition of a disability is a physical or mental impairment that limits a person’s significant life activity. Women with physical and cognitive disabilities are more likely to receive poor reproductive healthcare services than women without disabilities. Breast and cervical cancer screening for women with disabilities are less frequent than women without disabilities. Women with disabilities are more likely not up-to-date on their mammograms, pap smears, pelvic and breast examinations (Taouk et al., 2018). Women with disabilities experience lower education in family planning services, contraception counseling, and how to handle their pregnancies. A study conducted by Taouk et al. (2018) tried to explore obstetrician-gynecologist current awareness, attitudes, and training regarding the reproductive care of women with disabilities. The study aimed to identify barriers that explain the lack of reproductive care women with disabilities receives. The researchers used a survey questionnaire to identify the aim of their study. The sample size included 308 obstetricians- gynecologists. The study’s findings concluded that training deficits, a deficit in knowledge, and unawareness of guidelines are barriers that can prevent obstetrician-gynecologists from providing confident reproductive healthcare to women with disabilities (Taouk et al., 2018).

Primary Care Providers’ Perceived Barriers and Needs for Support in Caring for Children with Autism

Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have a high significant need for healthcare due to their complex developmental challenges, mental health conditions, and high rates for other co-occurring medical diagnoses (Mazurek et al., 2020). Children with ASD experience worse access to healthcare and unmet needs than other children with other developmental conditions or no disabilities. Many primary care providers struggle with giving the best healthcare services to children with ASD. Many primary care providers receive little training in ASD in school, resulting in a lack of knowledge and confidence when caring for a child with ASD. A study conducted by Mazurek et al. (2020) examined the perceived barriers in providing care for children with ASD. The sample size of the study included 114 primary care providers. The 114 primary care providers answered questions through a survey. The study results concluded that the most significant barrier to providing care to a child with ASD was a lack of confidence in managing behavior, lack of time, and knowledge about autism resources. Fifty-seven percent of the primary care provider participants believe that lack of prior training in autism is a barrier when caring for a child with ASD (Mazurek et al., 2020).

References

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