

22. **ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN OBSTETRIC CARE PROVIDERS KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND PRACTICE TOWARDS PRECONCEPTION CARE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS: AN ONLINE CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY**

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training. It is recommended that extra platforms be made accessible to obstetric care providers during their training to assist them in becoming preconception carers and raising awareness about the significance of preconception care.

Key words: Knowledge; Attitude; Practice; Preconception Care; Obstetric; Syria.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JIMP5Fyl7s&t=30953s>

INTRODUCTION: Preconception care was instituted in 2013 by the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote more attention to pregnant women by medical staff. Preconception care attempts to optimize pregnancy outcomes and promote health by managing and treating variables that influence it. Obstetric care providers in LAMICs have been reported to have low levels of preconception care awareness. This study investigates the Knowledge, attitudes, and practice-related features of obstetric care providers in Syria's public health institutions about preconception care. **METHODS:** A cross-sectional study was performed in Syria between 6 September 2022 and 7 October 2022 to evaluate obstetric care providers' Knowledge, attitudes, and practice at public health institutions regarding preconception care and the factors associated with good Knowledge, attitudes, and practice. The questionnaire was designed using a validated scale from a prior study. The inclusion criteria for study participants were obstetricians and gynaecologists, midwives and residents, and nurses of Obstetrics and Gynecology. There were six sections in the questionnaire (sociodemographic information, Knowledge, practice attitude, additional factors associated with Preconception practice, and related actual & potential access to resources). The data were subjected to descriptive and multivariate logistic regression analysis using the IBM SPSS V. 28.0 software. **RESULTS:** The mean age of 499 participants was 31.8 (SD = 9.7). Most participants were female (81.8%) and physicians (60%). 91.4% of respondents have a good knowledge of preconception care. The most identified question (96.2%) was (Whether women intending pregnancy should be encouraged to defer pregnancy until they have reduced their drug, alcohol, and cigarette usage). (24.8%) participants regularly queried their patients about their reproductive life plan. Only 18.6% of physicians routinely informed their patients about environmental dangers and contaminants. In addition, 53.5% of responders inquired about the patient's surgical and medical histories. 29.7% of participants strongly agreed that PCC provides an opportunity to improve the health of couples, particularly women, whereas 18.2% are certain that PCC does not belong to their scope of duties. Knowledge was more likely to be poor among participants who had never seen a doctor practicing PCC than among those who had (OR=2.81, P value = 0.026). Participants who did not get training on reproductive life plan examination throughout their practice time were less knowledgeable than those who did (OR = 2.91, P value= 0.04). **CONCLUSION:** Our results have shown that obstetric care providers in Syria have good Knowledge of and low to moderate practice and attitude towards preconception care. Improving access to training platforms during the OB/GYN residency program, internet, and library services is vital to improving PCC