

Ultrasound findings; Their Importance and their Nursing and Medical Education Implication- The Case of Ectopic Pregnancies

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Abstract:

Background: Ultrasound technology continues advancing in techniques and diagnosis. It remains a field of specialists where nurses and other health workers are uneducated on it. Objectives: Determine pattern of ultrasound findings in ectopic pregnancy, involvement of nursing staff, determine medical education implications. Design: Retrospective, prospective and on-going study over 8 year period. Focus group discussions with nursing and medical education analysts. Setting: Memorial Hospital Eldoret, Kenya. Participants - 81 patients with ectopic pregnancy diagnosed by ultrasound. Results: Age range 19-39 years - 34.6% Unruptured ectopic pregnancy - 44.5%, Ruptured 43.2%, chronic leaking 2.3%. Conclusion: Ultrasound aids diagnosis and can grade type of pregnancy. Need to demystify science to nurses, clinical officers and other health workers. Recommendation: Medical education to include ultrasound to existing curricula specifying roles by health workers. Use participatory teaching methods for ultrasound technology.