

Abstract:

Endometriosis is a gynecological disorder characterized by the growth of endometrial tissue outside the uterine cavity. Although the prevalence of endometriosis is well documented in women living in developed countries, studies on the prevalence of this disease among African women are still wanting. The current view is that endometriosis rarely affects women of African descent. However, in African-American women in the USA, endometriosis is one of the common indications for major gynecological surgery and hysterectomy and is associated with a long hospitalization and high hospital charges. Endometriosis may be more commonly found in infertile Caucasian or African-American women than in African-Indigenous women, but it is likely that the true prevalence of endometriosis in African-Indigenous women is under reported owing to inadequate facilities and demands of specialized skills for adequate assessment of the pelvis and recognition of the various types and appearances of the disease. Understanding the prevalence of endometriosis among African women will be instrumental in proper management of this disease in the African continent.