

EXPLORING THE UNMET NEEDS: KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION OF UROGYNECOLOGY AMONGST HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN INDIA

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AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

To assess the awareness, knowledge, and perception of Urogynecology amongst Indian healthcare professionals (only specialists) by:

- 1.Assessing awareness, confidence, and exposure to PFDs.
- 2.Explore barriers, referrals, and training needs.
- 3.Identify research and education priorities in Urogynecology.

METHODS:

A cross-sectional survey of 370 healthcare professionals was conducted. Participants self-rated their confidence in managing POP, SUI, OAB, and FI on a 5-point Likert scale. Scores were averaged and classified as Confident (≥ 3.5) or Not confident (< 3.5). Role-based differences were assessed using the Chi-square test, with $p < 0.05$ considered significant.

RESULTS:

Participants of the study : Gynecologists 41.4%(153) , Physicians 33.2%(123), Surgeons 12.7%(47), Urologists 7.8%(29), Urogynecologists 4.9%(18).

Awareness Levels :

Most respondents were familiar with Urogynecology (62% very familiar, 29% somewhat familiar), while 9% reported no familiarity. Awareness differed significantly by role ($p < 0.001$).

Clinical Exposure:

45% managed > 20 PFD cases annually, with specialists more frequently exposed ($p < 0.001$).

Interventions to Improve Awareness and Care:

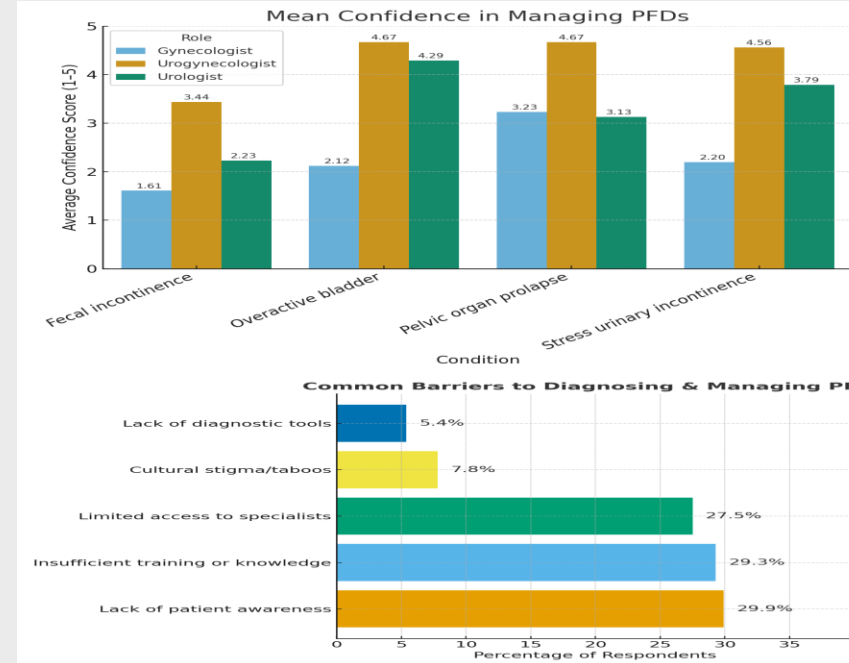
Respondents ranked **enhanced training programs** as the top priority, followed by **referral system improvements** and **awareness campaigns for healthcare workers**. **Patient education programs** and **availability of specialists** were rated lower, though still considered important.

Research Priorities:

Accessibility and affordability of care (39.9%) ranked highest, followed by non-surgical treatments (28.0%). Cultural factors (19.2%) and epidemiology (13.0%) were less prioritized but still noted as important.

Training & Referral:

75% preferred hands-on training. Higher awareness correlated with better referral practices ($p < 0.001$).



CONCLUSION:

Significant disparities exist in Urogynecology knowledge and confidence across healthcare roles. There is an **urgent unmet need for structured training, clear referral pathways, and curriculum inclusion** to bridge existing gaps and advance **comprehensive urogynecologic care in India**.

REFERENCES:

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