

IT'S A BLOODY MESS!

THE GAPS IN PHYSICIAN KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE, AND PATIENT EXPERIENCES, REGARDING REPRODUCTIVE-ENDOCRINE DISORDERS

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INTRODUCTION

Reproductive-endocrine disorders (REDs) include polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and endometriosis. Together, these diseases affect about 20% of all reproductive-age women.

PCOS is characterized by hyperandrogenism, menstrual irregularities, and insulin resistance

Endometriosis is the presence of endometrial tissue outside of the uterus.

Increased risk of type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, ovarian cancer, infertility, autoimmune disorders, and perinatal complications.

Despite the prevalence and impact on patients' quality of life, the knowledge of and practice for REDs among medical providers is insufficient.

This literature review aims to analyze the knowledge and practice of physicians regarding REDs and the self-reported experiences of patients who sought care from physicians.

METHODS

Databases: MEDLINE, CINAHL, ProQuest, EBSCO, the university's interlibrary article loan, and articles in the references of other studies.

Keywords: "reproductive endocrine disorders or polycystic ovarian syndrome or pcos or endometriosis or polycystic ovary syndrome" and "education or knowledge or practice or awareness or understanding" and "medical providers or doctors or physicians" and "experiences or perceptions or views or attitudes" and "patients or clients."

Inclusion criteria: Peer-reviewed, full text, English language, past 10 years

Exclusion criteria: Review study design types, absence of graphs/data in study.

RESULTS- PHYSICIANS

Sufficient knowledge of clinical features and comorbidities

Insufficient knowledge of well-being factors.

70% of physicians stated they needed more education.

Time until diagnosis ranged from 1 week- 10 years.

22% of physicians did not know diagnostic criteria.

The most common treatment was intrauterine contraceptive devices and oral contraceptives.

RESULTS- PATIENTS

Feelings of invalidation, frustration, and dismissal.

Experienced a lack of empathy and initiative from physicians.

Lack of information received about the disorder and treatment options.

Dissatisfaction with the provided treatment, specifically contraceptives.

DISCUSSION

Findings revealed women did not have enough knowledge about PCOS, and patients were dissatisfied with overall care, as well as having experienced invalidation of their pain and symptoms by doctors.

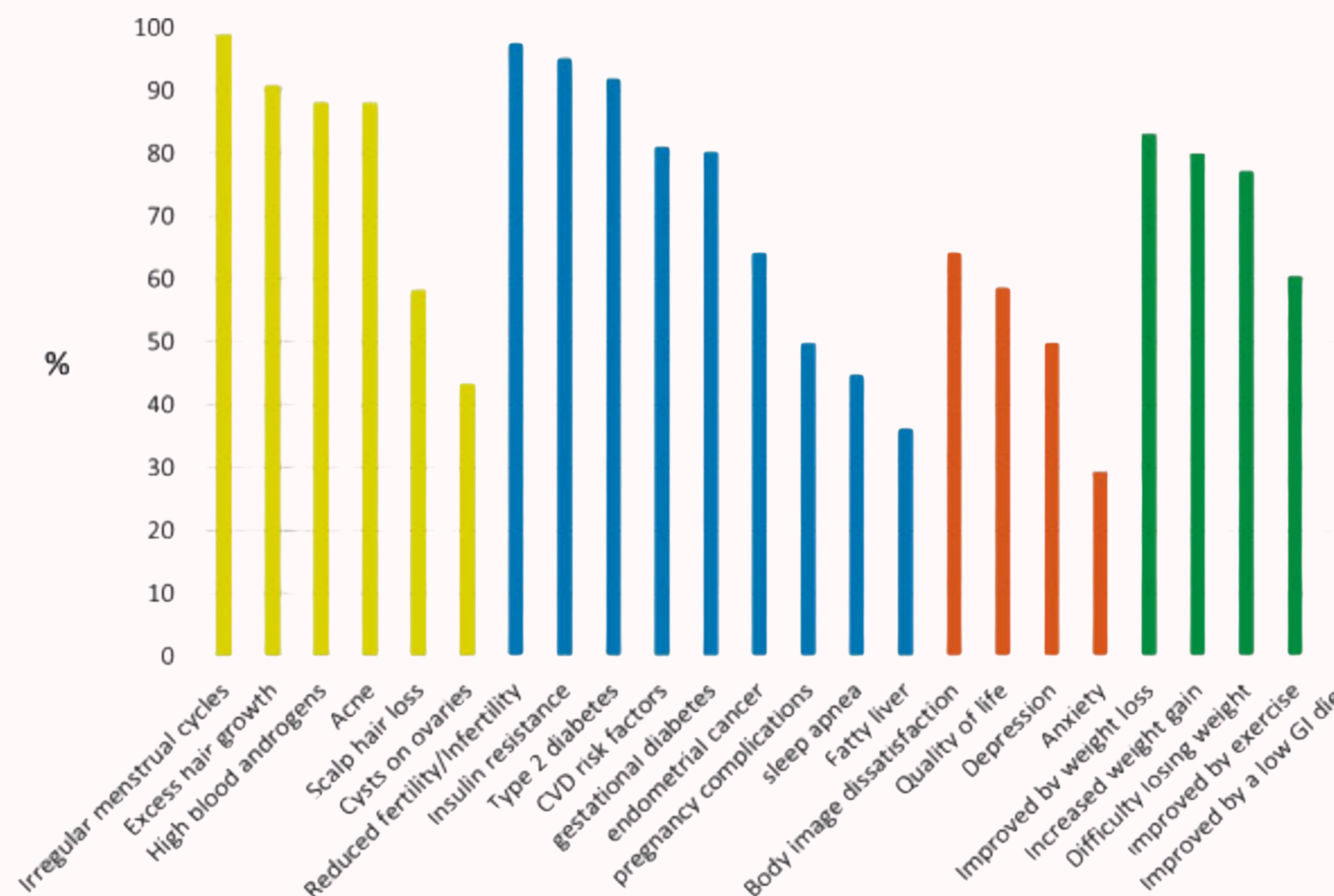
Patients changed their doctors due to a lack of help from their initial visit

Many studies have been conducted on the knowledge and practice of physicians, nurses, and nurse practitioners, with no research on physician assistants (PAs), despite their crucial role in the medical field. Future research will be focused on comparing the knowledge and practice between physicians and physician assistants, and patient experiences with each provider.

Quantitative Study 1: Survey on the knowledge and practice of PAs on REDs.

Qualitative study 2: Survey of patient's experiences when receiving care from PAs

Findings between PAs knowledge and practice and patient's experiences will be thematically analyzed.



References

