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**ENDOMETRIOSIS AS A CAUSE OF INFERTILITY IN NIGERIAN WOMEN**

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**Introduction.** The prevalence of Endometriosis is said to have been low in African women, but in recent years more African women are diagnosed with Endometriosis every day. Report shows that in Nigeria 6 in 20 women who report with infertility are diagnosed with endometriosis.

**Materials and methods.** This analysis involves 50 women between the ages of 26-46 years, who reported at the government owned infertility clinic in Lagos, Nigeria. There was used physical investigation, hormonal research, ultrasound examination, method of diagnostic laparoscopy.

**Results.** Diagnosis done based on history, 70% of the women reported hypermenorrhea, 60% of women reported with dysmenorrhea and 40% amongst women who had dysmenorrhea reported with dysparenuria. Bimanual examination, same percentage of women who reported dysparenuria

presented with Douglas scream, the uterus was retroverted in 10%of the women, 15% had abnormally shaped uterus, on palpating the adnexae, 60% of the women had ovarian masses, and 35% of the women felt pain in the ovaries. Hormonal test revealed 70% of women had increased estrogen levels. Ultrasound examination showed 40% of women with ovarian cysts. 1% of hospitals and diagnostic centers in Nigeria are equipped with Laparoscopic instrument. Laparoscopy was conducted on all these women and 30% (15) of these women presented with gun powder lesions on the peritoneum and chocolate cysts in their ovaries.

Results of the ultrasound investigations were not specific, as to the type of cysts present in the ovaries, but laparoscopic examination revealed the type of cyst and also superficial lesions present in the female reproductive system. Laparoscopic examination gives a more definite diagnosis of Endometriosis.

Comparing these results in Nigerian women with other parts of the world, this results show that 15 women out of 50 women who present with infertility in Nigeria are diagnosed with endometriosis. This shows that about 30% of women in Nigeria who present with infertility have Endometriosis. 10% of women in the world have been diagnosed with Endometriosis which means that more women in Nigeria are affected by Endometriosis compared to other parts of the world. Endometriosis in Nigeria is managed using analgesics and hormonal therapy, in woman who are infertile and hope to have children, surgical treatment to remove endometrial tissues and adhesions is indicated, in women who are still unable to conceive after surgery, IVF is recommended.

**Conclusion.** Laparoscopic examination revealed that about 30% of women who present with infertility in Nigeria are diagnosed with Endometriosis.