Abdominal and Pelvic Adhesions Research in Sub-Saharan Africa: Air Must Become Wind

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Adhesions from Infections and Surgery in Sub-Saharan Africa

Infections are responsible for an important morbidity in SSA. This includes sexually transmissible infections, postpartum and post abortum infections, and postoperative infections whose prevalence is the highest in the world.11,12 In addition, surgery, particularly abdominal and/or pelvic surgery is mostly practiced in precarious conditions.12,13 Since it is clearly known that infection and abdominal surgery are the main risk factors of adhesions,14,15 SSA is expected to experience high prevalence of APA.

The Burden of Adhesions in Sub-Saharan Africa

Evidence exists on the role of APA in infertility.16,17 Overall, 20 to 40% of infertility cases are secondary to APA.16,17 Studies in SSA showed that fibrosis, particularly through APA, ranked first in etiologies of secondary female infertility19,20 which is the most common type in this part of the world.19,20 Women experiencing the drama of infertility generally present with...
tubal factor infertility\textsuperscript{20,21} requiring expensive therapies. But such expenses cannot yet be afforded by Sub-Saharan couples being in low income conditions and paying themselves for their health care. Apart from infertility, other morbidities associated with APA such as bowel obstruction\textsuperscript{23} and ectopic pregnancy\textsuperscript{24,25} have shown particular concerns in SSA, indicating an extra burden for APA.

**TIME TO MOVE FORWARD**

We talked about the scarcity of Sub-Saharan studies on adhesions. In fact, some researches on adhesions have been published from African scientists. We can cite without being exhaustive, the study by Shokeir et al.\textsuperscript{26} in Egypt on infertility women undergoing laparoscopy, the study by Arung et al.\textsuperscript{27} conducted through a partnership between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Belgium on the effect of Parecoxib to prevent postoperative adhesions in rats and the study by Dupont et al.\textsuperscript{28} in Cameroun on the incidence of adhesions at second laparoscopy after abdominal myomectomy. Our team has been interested in this condition and is working on the relationship between adhesions and pathologies whose prevalence has been found to be higher in black people, to help profiling high risk patients for adhesion prevention.\textsuperscript{39} This means there is no doubt that some Sub-Saharan research teams are working on adhesions. But given the heavy burden of this condition, still to be recognized as underlined in the present paper, and the particularities of SSA from many views, we think that researchers have a huge and quite unexplored forest that can feed scientific literature with new insights on APA in order to contribute to the great challenge of adhesion prevention. And this development will turn more successful through partnerships considering the implication of experienced scientists from all over the world.

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**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

**REFERENCES**


