

Maternal Expectancy and Knowledge of Antenatal Screening Ultrasound: A study at a Private Tertiary Hospital

Rahaf Althalabi, Rana Alsalmey, Karim Ramzy, Alfia Fatma
International Medical Centre, Jeddah, K.S.A.



BACKGROUND

Antenatal ultrasound is a cornerstone of modern prenatal care, yet limited data exist regarding maternal expectations and knowledge within the Saudi Arabian context. Understanding these factors in specific patient populations is vital for optimizing specialized service delivery and patient satisfaction.

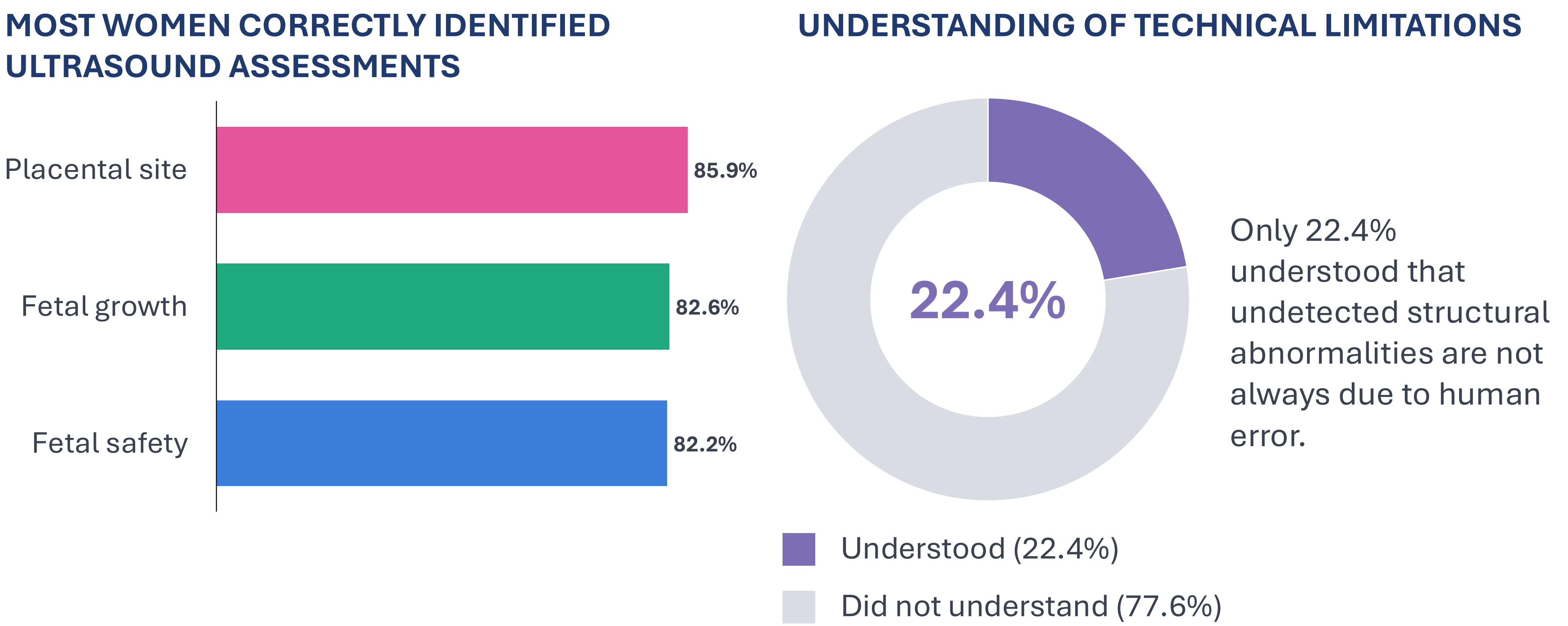
OBJECTIVES

- To explore expectancy/knowledge levels and experiences regarding screening ultrasounds among women attending a private tertiary hospital in Jeddah.
- To compare these levels based on parity and prior miscarriage history.

METHODS

- Prospective observational cross-sectional study
- Private tertiary hospital unit, Jeddah
- January to March 2025
- 304 pregnant women
- Validated online questionnaire assessing maternal expectancy and knowledge
- Bloom's cut-off points: $\leq 50\%$ = limited; $\geq 60\%$ = adequate expectancy/knowledge
- Multivariable logistic regression identified independent predictors of adequacy scores

RESULTS



INDEPENDENT PREDICTORS OF ADEQUATE EXPECTANCY/KNOWLEDGE			
Predictor	aOR	95% CI	p-value
Asian ethnicity	5.50	1.56–19.40	0.008
University education	2.45	1.30–4.65	0.006
Postgraduate education	2.81	1.17–6.72	0.020

No significant differences were found based on parity or miscarriage history.

CONCLUSION

- While the majority in this private tertiary setting showed adequate expectancy/knowledge, significant gaps exist regarding technical limitations.
- Educational interventions tailored to this specific patient profile are necessary to foster realistic expectations and informed decision-making.

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS / TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

- Provide structured pre-scan counselling on what ultrasound can and cannot detect.
- Use culturally sensitive, multilingual educational materials.
- Focus support on women with lower educational attainment and diverse ethnic backgrounds.
- Clarify that missed abnormalities are not always due to human error.
- Use teach-back methods and provide opportunities for questions.