

Knowledge and expectations of prenatal diagnosis and fetal ultrasound among pregnant women in Lebanon

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Objective

To evaluate the level of information and knowledge as well as expectation that pregnant women in Lebanon have concerning prenatal diagnosis and fetal ultrasound.

Methods

Over a period of 2 months, all pregnant women attending a private clinic and 5 healthcare centers in different region of Lebanon were asked to fill an anonymous questionnaire (women characteristics, prenatal test knowledge, current pregnancy follow up, source of information) prior to the fetal ultrasound.



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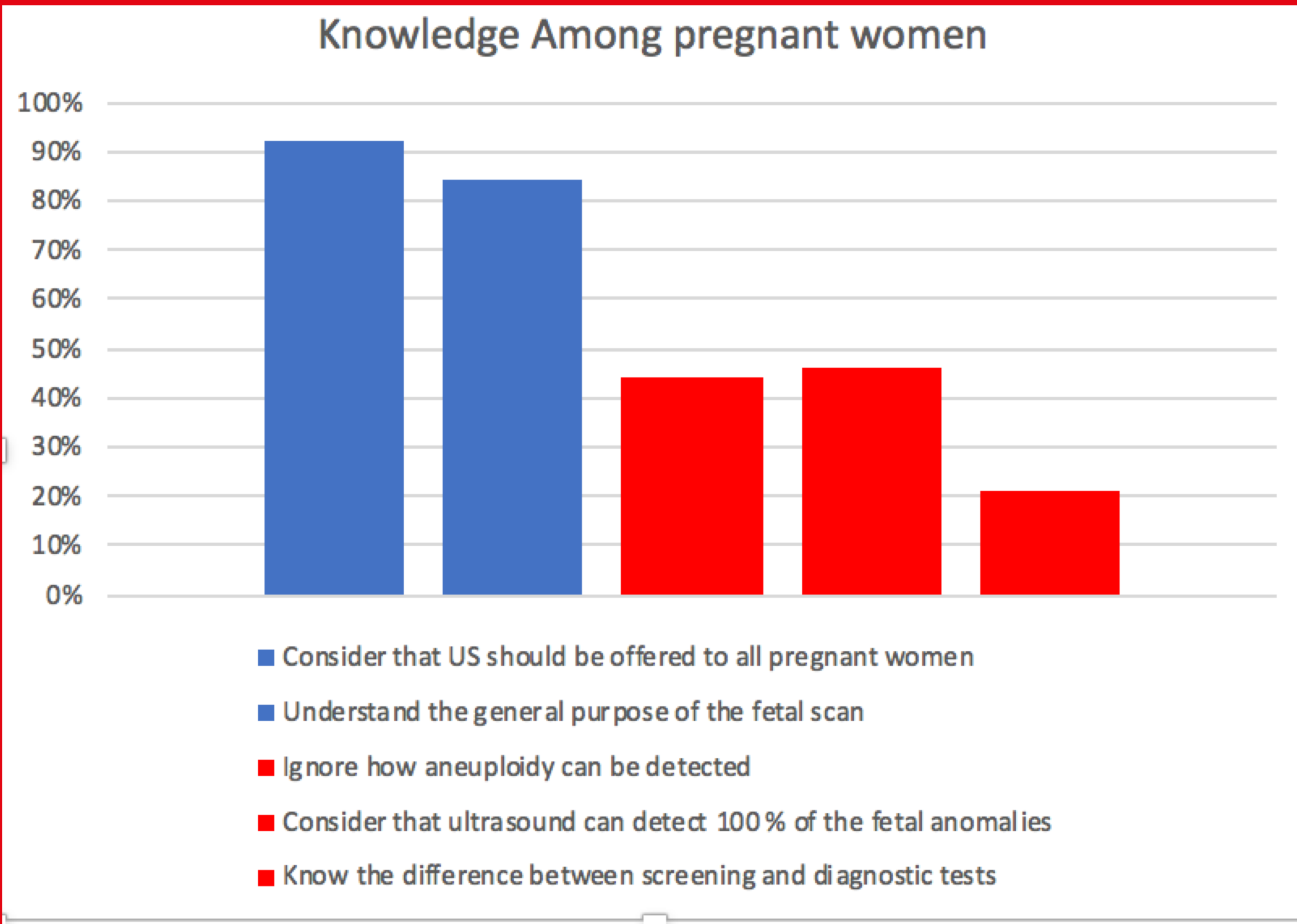
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Results

A total of 119 pregnant women, representing all regions of Lebanon, completed an anonymous questionnaire on prenatal diagnosis. Consanguinity was reported in 10.9% of the participants.

Although 92.4% believed that obstetrical ultrasound should be offered to all pregnant women, and 84% understood the general purpose of the scan, important knowledge gaps were identified. Approximately 44.5% of participants did not know how common trisomies can be diagnosed, and the same proportion either did not know or believed that the anomaly scan is 100% accurate in detecting fetal anomalies.

Furthermore, only 21% were able to distinguish between screening and diagnostic tests. Regarding sources of information, 93% of respondents cited the medical team as their primary source. Despite this trust , 91.6% believed that receiving additional information about prenatal diagnosis would be beneficial.



Conclusion

Although a majority of women report basic knowledge about prenatal diagnostic ultrasound and screening tests, important gaps remain, highlighting the need for improved patient education. Most women express trust in healthcare professionals and expect them to play a central role in providing information about prenatal diagnosis.