

Women as Urologists in Saudi Arabia: Career Choice and Practice Challenges: A Comparative Cross-Sectional Study

Dear colleagues' Female physicians,

This study aims to assess different aspects related to Women practicing Urology in Saudi Arabia. The survey will take a maximum of 2-3 minutes. Your participation is highly appreciated, and we would like to assure you that all information and results will be confidential. ((Our target sample is female urologists and non-urologist, to understand their point of view on the urology specialty)). Please, choose the appropriate answer for you.

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Informed consent (Agree to participate in this survey):

Yes

Current specialty :

Urologist physicians

Non-Urologist physicians

Section 1: Demographic Data

- 1- Age :
- 2- Marital Status :
 - Single
 - Married
 - Widowed
 - Divorced
- 3- Raising Children :
 - Yes
 - No
- 4- Timing of having a first child :
 - Before training
 - During training
 - After training
 - Not having children yet
- 5- Current region of practicing urology specialty :
 - Central
 - Western
 - Eastern
 - Northern
 - Southern
- 6- Current professional level?
 - General practitioner (GP)
 - Resident (PGY 1)
 - Resident (PGY 2)
 - Resident (PGY 3)
 - Resident (PGY 4)
 - Resident (PGY 5)
 - Board-certified / Specialist
 - Fellow
 - Consultant
- 7- Currently, what type of hospitals do you work in?
 - Private sector hospital
 - Military hospital
 - MOH hospital
 - University hospital
 - Not working currently

8- Years of practicing specialty:

- < 5 years
- 5 – 10 years
- 10 – 20 years
- > 20 years

Section 2: As a Female Physician, what are the Influencing Factors if you Think about/or Choose Urology as a Future Career Specialty?

9- Diversity of practice (Mix of Medicine + Surgery)

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

10- Diversity of urological procedures

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

11- Interest in Urology as a surgical specialty

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

12- Urology has a better life-work balance compared to other specialty.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

13- Diversity and characteristics of Urology patients

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

14- Research opportunities in Urology

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

15- Availability of various sub-specialties under Urology

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

16- Compensation / Income

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

Section 3: What Specific Challenges do you Think Female Physicians Might Face When They Apply to Urology Residency Matching?

17- It was difficult to get a recommendation letter from a urologist.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

18- Lack of exposure to urology during preclinical and clinical years of medical school

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

19- There was an alternative specialty to be considered other than Urology.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

20- Domination of male applicants to Urology

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

21- There was a fear of not being accepted into the Urology program.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

22- Possible or expected interview issues and difficulties when applying to the Urology program.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree

- Strongly agree.

23- Social barriers

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

24- Not comfortable performing/interpreting male genitourinary exam

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

25- Refusal of examination and treatment by a male patient

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

Section 4: What Specific Challenges do you Think the Female Physician Might Face During Urology Residency or After the Residency Practice Period?

26- Male patients refusing to be seen by a female urologist.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

27- Inappropriate treatment by male patients

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

28- Inappropriate treatment by male superiors, colleagues, or staff

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

29- Gender discrimination or harassment

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

30- Specify: From whom do you think gender discrimination or harassment might be perceived?

❖ Supervisor

- Yes
- No

❖ Colleague

- Yes
- No

❖ Nurse

- Yes
- No

❖ Patient

- Yes

- No

31- Lack of female mentors

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

32- Pregnancy, childbearing, motherhood, difficulty taking maternity leave, and lack of physical stamina.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

33- Specify: What type of pregnancy-related complications do you think are triggered by a female urologist's daily work?

❖ Radiation exposure

- Yes
- No

❖ Long-standing hours

- Yes
- No

❖ Sleep deprivation

- Yes
- No

34- What is the average duration of maternity leave in your institute?

- < 10 weeks
- 10 weeks
- > 10 weeks

To continue the survey, please choose your current specialty AGAIN, please.

- Urologist physicians (continue sections 5 and 6)
- Non-urologist physicians (end of the survey)

Section 5: Female Urologist Employment and Academic Status

35- What subspecialty would you like as a female urology resident to apply for future or your current subspecialty you accomplished? (You can choose more than one subspecialty).

- ❖ Pediatric Urology
 - Yes
 - No
- ❖ Andrology and Male Infertility (Men's Health)
 - Yes
 - No
- ❖ Urologic Oncology
 - Yes
 - No
- ❖ Minimally Invasive (Laparoscopic and Robotic) Surgery
 - Yes
 - No
- ❖ Endourology and Stone Disease
 - Yes
 - No
- ❖ Female Urology and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery
 - Yes
 - No
- ❖ Renal Transplantation
 - Yes
 - No
- ❖ Neurourology and Urodynamics (Voiding Dysfunction)
 - Yes
 - No
- ❖ Reconstructive Urology
 - Yes
 - No

36- What is the average time of working hours per week?

- > 80 hours
- 70 – 80 hours
- 60 – 70 hours
- 50 – 60 hours
- 40 – 50 hours
- < 40 hours

37- How many hours do you spend studying for Urology every week?

- < 2 hours
- 2 – 5 hours
- 10 – 25 hours
- 25 – 40 hours
- > 40 hours

Section 6: Female Urologist Attitude Toward Urology as a Career

38- As a urologist, I have more time in OR

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

39- As a urologist, I have more time to work in the clinic.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

40- Being married, made urology practice difficult.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

41- Being a urologist, limit my home responsibilities and affect my personal life with my family.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

42- I am satisfied with my current career.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

43- I am satisfied with the lifestyle in my career.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

44- I am satisfied with my financial income.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

45- I am satisfied with patient outcomes in my career.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

46- I would choose Urology again.

- Strongly disagree.
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree.

End of survey.