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Evaluation of the quality of cervico-vaginal smears at gyneco-obstetric and pediatric hospital of Douala

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Introduction: Cervical cancer is likely to be cancer whose Cervico-Vaginal Smear (CVF) screening would be the most contributive if performed under favorable conditions. In Cameroon, the laboratories of Anatomy Cytology Pathology (ACP) are very few, there is no quality control in these laboratories and even less, there is no study on the quality of samples of CVS since its implementation in our country. However, in the laboratory, the quality of the sample determines the quality of the analysis and consequently the quality of the result and therapeutic orientations. Thus, the quality and safety of CVS results could be challenged by poor sample quality. The objective of our study was to evaluate the quality approach in Cervico-Vaginal smears, recognized as the examination of choice in the early detection of precancerous lesions of the cervix.

Methods: We conducted over a period of 16 months (September 2015 to December 2016), a retrospective study of descriptive type over a period of 08 months (December 2016 to July 2017) at the Gyneco-Obstetrics and Pediatric Hospital of Douala where we have performed a quality control of Cervico-Vaginal smears quality criteria only at the sampling level using the Bethesda System as reference quality manual.

Results: A total of 508 CVS in clinical practice were reviewed and at the end of the analyzes, we obtained 28.94% CVS satisfactory for evaluation, 43.31% CVS satisfactory but limited by and the CVS rate was inadequate 27.76%. The analysis of the reports revealed that 65.31% of the CVS had no information regarding the quality of the sample.

Conclusion: Given these results, the quality of samples taken at HGOPED is partially in line with Bethesda's recommendations, which implies that ACP professionals must really engage in a process of quality improvement in the practice of CVS.

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