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GYNECOLOGY, OBSTETRICS AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

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Title: Autonomy Considerations in Reproductive and Sexuality Care for People with Intellectual Disabilities

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Abstract:

Reproduction and sexuality are normal and healthy aspects of human life. This includes persons with intellectual disabilities. However, education and health care in sexuality and reproduction often neglected in this population. Historically, in the United States, the assumption has been that persons with intellectual disabilities cannot and should not consent to sexual activity or reproduce. However, the history of involuntary sterilization includes many people who regretted the sterilization measures that were performed and demonstrated capacity to care for children either independently or within a support network. The wide diversity of type and degree of intellectual disability, assessing decisional capacity can be difficult for healthcare providers to know how and what to communicate to patients with intellectual disability. The intersection of other factors such as race, social stigma of sexuality, income-level, and insurance issues, create further impediments for patients with intellectual disabilities who are seeking care, especially regarding reproduction.

Referring to a combination of empirical evidence, professional standards, laws, regulations, cases, and ethical reasoning, the authors argue for recognition of the right to equitable sexual and reproductive healthcare for people with intellectual disabilities, which supports the degree and type of autonomous capacity of the individual. Audience participation will be encouraged with polling during the presentation and discussion afterwards.

Biography:

Majd Oteibi has completed her PHD from Drexel University, USA. She has completed her post graduate training in clinical research from Harvard Medical School. She is a trained OB/GYN from King Hussain Medical Center, Amman, Jordan. Currently she is an adjunct professor at National University for more than three years and a CEO and Director of Clinical Research at Validus Institute Inc. since 2020. She has more than 15 years' experience in clinical research in multiple therapeutic areas with excellent audit results. She was recognized by Who's Who as a top research physician in 2021 and featured in Who's Who publication in 2022. For more than four years she has been a reviewer for multiple reputable journals.

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