

Women's preferences for gynecological care with multiple providers: a discrete choice experiment in France*

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates women's preferences regarding healthcare providers for gynecological care outside of pregnancy. In several healthcare systems, such care can be provided by several professional groups, including gynecologists, general practitioners, and midwives. We conducted a discrete choice experiment with a representative sample of 1,746 French women to assess the relative importance of provider type and the following attributes: waiting time, out-of-pocket costs, provider gender, patient-centered behavior, and source of provider recommendations. We further explored preference heterogeneity and its associations with factors such as age, geographic location, previous healthcare experiences and risk aversion. Our results indicate that women are particularly sensitive to provider type, showing a strong preference for gynecologists, and that they prioritize female providers, shorter waiting times, and lower costs over other attributes. Preferences vary significantly across subgroups: younger women, those who have recently been pregnant, and those who have had negative experiences with gynecologists are more inclined to choose midwives. Additionally, higher risk aversion correlates with a stronger preference for gynecologists. This study highlights priority areas for policymakers to improve access to gynecological care.

Keywords: sexual health; gynecological care; preferences; discrete choice experiment;

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