

A Textbook of

# **Gynecology for Less-Resourced Locations**



A Textbook of  
**Gynecology for  
Less-Resourced  
Locations**

Edited by

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and

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# The Editors

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Heleen van Beekhuizen, MD, PhD has spent 8 years working in low-resource settings, in particular, Papua New Guinea and Tanzania. She has a keen interest in minimal invasive gynecological surgery, vesico-vaginal fistula surgery and (oncological) gynecology in low-resource settings.

Currently, she is employed as an oncological gynecologist and general gynecologist at the Erasmus Medical Center and Haven Hospital in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and she is pursuing a master's in Clinical Trials at the London University (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine).



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# Editors' Foreword

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It is estimated that approximately 1.2 billion women worldwide live in less-resourced locations and many of these women have little or no access to good-quality gynecological care. For such women there is, therefore, a significant need for evidence-based, cost-effective medical care. Unfortunately, however, most gynecological textbooks describe diagnostic and treatment schemes unsuitable for areas with limited resources.

This carefully structured textbook seeks to support various levels of health personnel (e.g. junior gynecologists, general doctors, midwives, clinical officers, nurses at MCH clinics etc.) in less-resourced locations by providing evidence-based information about low-tech diagnostic and treatment options for common gynecological conditions such as cervical, ovarian and breast cancer, problems in early pregnancy, contraception and gynecological bleeding disorders. It also covers specific conditions often encountered in less-resourced locations such as fistula surgery, female genital mutilation and HIV-associated gynecological complications. A separate chapter deals with subfertility, a topic which is rarely on the agenda of vertical programs in less-resourced locations although the need for appropriate care for this condition is substantial.

Each chapter presents differential diagnosis and management plus a section on prevention and community sensitization. Many chapters also feature links to relevant online videos of gynecological procedures.

The first part of the book presents a symptom-orientated approach to diagnosis whilst the second part of the book focuses on specific conditions with detailed guidance on treatment. The third part deals with gynecological cancer in less-resourced locations. The fourth and final part of this book addresses important basic skills for program planning and monitoring and is designed to provide guidance on quality assessment and auditing, important factors in improving gynecological care in places with low-resource tools.

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