

Research Title: **Ultrasound localisation: a comparison between external palpation and trans-abdominal ultrasound**

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Abstract of the research paper of the degree of

BSc (Hons) Osteopathy conversion course

British College of Osteopathic Medicine

2013

Name of the Journal: **Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation**

ABSTRACT

Aims:

Compare uterine placement perceived with osteopathic external palpation to the result of a transabdominal ultrasound scan. A second goal was to evaluate whether experience alters the ability to determine the uterine position.

Methods:

The parameters of anteversion/retroversion and possible lateral deviations in uterine placement were evaluated out of fifteen women through a transabdominal ultrasound scan (USS) operated by a gynaecologist and through palpations performed by ten Osteopaths.

The Osteopaths recruited were divided in two groups: a more than four years experience one and a less than a year experience one. In the first phase of the study were performed the USS and two palpations, in the second and third phases the women were submitted to other four palpations per each phase.

The Agreement between the examiners and USS were calculated by separating the parameter of anteversion/retroversion from lateral deviations. The outcomes were analysed through the use of Cohen's Kappa (also on experience basis) and evaluated with the Landis and Koch scale.

Results:

The general agreement relating to the anteversion/retroversion parameter was slight (Mean A/R=0.196) while concerning the lateral deviation parameter it turned out to be poor (Mean LD= -0.456). The comparison agreement was higher in the group of less experienced palpators for both parameters (Mean A/R= 0.21, Mean LD= -0.391).

Conclusion:

The Osteopathic palpatory approach on uterine placement has a slight scientific reliability on the perception of anteversion/retroversion placement however the lateral deviation is poorly reliable. These

results suggest that uterus placement is poor in reliability with Osteopathic external palpation with the groups tested.

Keywords: Reliability, Palpation, Osteopathy, Uterus Placement, Uterus, Transabdominal Ultrasound.