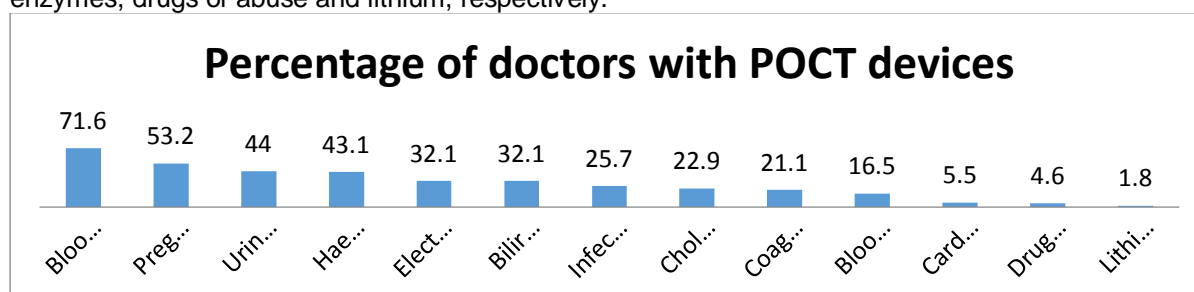


## A survey of the awareness, knowledge and experience of Point of Care Devices of Doctors in Nigeria

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**Aim:** A cross-sectional descriptive survey was carried out to review the availability and accessibility of Point of Care Test (POCT) devices to doctors in Nigeria. **Materials:** Doctors from a wide range of specialities, from all six geopolitical zones in Nigeria, were targeted. The study used a sample size of 109 doctors. **Method:** The sampling method was a simple random selection of doctors attending a medical conference. **Results:** In the survey, more than 80% of the doctors claimed to have a POCT device, from a list of POCT devices (Glucose, Pregnancy test, Urine Chemistry, Haemoglobin, Electrolytes & Urea, Bilirubin, Infectious Disease, Cholesterol, Coagulation, Cardiac Enzymes, Drugs of Abuse and Lithium, seventy one percent (71.6%) of doctors had access to a POCT device for blood glucose followed by 53.2%, 44%, 43.1%, 32.1%, 32.1%, 25.7%, 22.9%, 21.1%, 16.5%, 5.5%, 4.6%, 1.8% of them who had access to POCT devices for pregnancy test, urine chemistry, haemoglobin, electrolyte & urea, bilirubin, infectious diseases, cholesterol, coagulation, blood gases, cardiac enzymes, drugs of abuse and lithium, respectively.



In a subset from the study, from the list of critical care Point of Care Test devices (Blood Gases), 47%, 22%, 21%, 19%, 17%, 6%, 4% and 1% of respondents had heard of Abbott-I-STAT, Roche-AVL opti, Bayer - Rapid Point 400, Bayer – Chiron, Nova, Radiometer-ABL, Radiometer-ABL 70/77, IL-GEM Premier, respectively. There were no respondents who had heard of the Diametrics ITC-IRMA and the IL-Synthesis. From the list, 19.2%, 6.1%, 3.0%, 4.0%, 6.1%, 1.0% and 1.0% of the respondents had used the Abbott-I-STAT, Roche-AVL opti, Bayer - Rapid Point 400, Bayer – Chiron, Nova, Radiometer-ABL, IL-GEM Premier, respectively. There were no respondents who had used the Diametrics ITC-IRMA, the IL-Synthesis and the Radiometer-ABL 70/77. From the list, 4.0%, 1.0%, 3.0% and 1.0% of the respondents had purchased the Abbott-I-STAT, the Roche-AVL opti, the Bayer – Chiron and the IL-GEM Premier, respectively.

Analyser	Awareness (n=100)		Use (n=99)		Purchase (n=99)	
	Freq (yes)	%	Freq (yes)	%	Freq (yes)	%
Abbott-I-STAT	47	47	19	19.2	4	4
Roche-AVL Opti	22	22	6	6.1	1	1
Bayer Rapid Point 400	21	21	3	3	0	0
Bayer Chiron	19	19	4	4	3	3
Nova	17	17	6	6.1	0	0
Radiometer –ABL	6	6	1	1	0	0
Radiometer-ABL 70/77	4	4	0	0	0	0
IL-GEM Premier (Block Scientific Inc)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diametrics ITC IRMA	0	0	0	0	0	0
IL-Synthesis	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Conclusion:** This survey showed that in Nigeria the commonest POCT device was the blood glucose meter with more than 70% of doctors having access to it, followed by the pregnancy test kit. Only about nineteen percent (19%) had used a POCT device for blood gases and the Abbott - i-STAT was the most recognised and used one, followed by the Roche-AVL Opti.