

## Prevalence Of The Double Burden Of Malnutrition In Women Of Childbearing Age In Morocco: Coexistence Of Iron Deficiency Anaemia And Overweight

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**Abstract :** Introduction: The double burden of malnutrition (DBM), characterized by the coexistence of undernutrition and overnutrition, is a significant health challenge, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. In Morocco, 61.3% of women of reproductive age (WRA) are overweight or obese, including 30.4% who were obese, while 34.4% were anaemic, and 49.7% have iron deficiency anaemia. Objective: This study aims to determine the prevalence of DBM at the individual level among Moroccan WRA, defined by the coexistence of iron deficiency anaemia and overweight/obesity. Methods: a cross-sectional national survey was conducted among a representative sample of 2090 Moroccan WRA. Data collected included socio-economic parameters, anthropometric measurements, and blood samples. Haemoglobin levels were measured photometrically using Hemocue, while ferritin and CRP were assessed through immunoturbidimetry. Results: The prevalence of overweight/obesity, iron deficiency, anaemia and iron deficiency anaemia among WRA in Morocco were 60.2%, 30.6%, 34.4% and 50.0% respectively. The coexistence of overweight/obesity with anaemia and iron deficiency was observed in 19.2% and 16.3% of women, respectively. Among overweight/obese women, 32.5% were anaemic, 28.4% were iron deficient, and 47.6% had iron deficiency anaemia. the prevalence of DBM was higher in urban areas compared to rural settings. Conclusion: The coexistence of undernutrition and overnutrition among WRA highlights the urgent need for integrated public health interventions addressing both anaemia and obesity simultaneously. Tailored strategies should consider the specific socio-economic and geographical contexts to effectively combat this dual burden.

**Keywords :** the double burden of malnutrition, iron deficiency anaemia, overweight, obesity

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