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Summary

GENDER DISPARITIES IN GASTROENTEROLOGY: PARENTHOOD'S IMPACT ON CAREER AND TRAINING

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UEG Week Vienna 2024 Poster

October 13, 2024

A survey of 811 German gastroenterologists found that parenthood delays specialist training and reduces academic advancement primarily for women, while men's careers remain largely unaffected.

KEY POINTS

- Among survey respondents, female physicians reported that childbearing often postponed their specialist training ($p < 0.001$), whereas men indicated their training was seldom delayed.
- Over half of mothers cited reduced work hours as a significant reason for postponed training completion, while no childless men reported work hour reduction as a cause for delayed specialist status.
- Women with children held professorships less frequently than childless women or male counterparts ($p < 0.001$), and 58% were less active in endoscopy after their first child.
- The majority of men worked over 50 hours per week regardless of parental status, and fatherhood predominantly led to full-time employment of at least 40 hours per week, with work hours remaining unchanged post-childbirth.
- The authors conclude that these findings reflect a gendered divide in work-life balance and highlight the need for structural changes to support equitable career progression in gastroenterology.

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