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# Muscular Dystrophies in West Africa: Assistance in Clinical Screening and Differentiation of the Main Forms

**Topic:** Genetics

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## BACKGROUND

Muscular dystrophies are neuromuscular diseases (NMD) present in West Africa. Nevertheless, their diagnosis is difficult due to the lack of health professionals specifically trained in myology and a precarious economic context. Currently, public health actions are being implemented for infectious and fatal diseases such as HIV and Ebola, but no action against NMD is available.

The aim of the study is to build a kinesitherapy diagnostic assessment in order to detect and differentiate muscular dystrophies in West Africa.

## METHODS

I conducted a literature review by selecting different studies and reviews from the PubMed and ScienceDirect databases. I collected articles dealing with clinical signs specific to each muscular dystrophy, and I excluded articles dealing with complementary examination or genetic analysis. In the end, I selected 20 articles written in French or English.

## RESULTS

The specific and most suggestive clinical signs and symptoms of each muscular dystrophy are described. In addition, most studies show a correlation between some tests assessing motor capacity and quantitative magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) values.

The results do not show the reality on the ground in West Africa.

## CONCLUSION

Some tests are not adapted or feasible in West Africa. Therefore, functional tests seem to be the most relevant to assist in the clinical screening and differentiation of muscular dystrophies. However, further studies are needed to provide a more reliable response to the problem.

**Statement of Disclosures**

None

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