

# Minimally invasive autopsy can identify causes of Mozambique newborn and childhood deaths

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Minimally invasive autopsy (MIA) can identify cause of death in pediatric, perinatal and neonatal deaths in Mozambique with significant precision and accuracy compared with complete diagnostic autopsy (CDA), according to two studies published by Clara Menéndez, Quique Bassat and colleagues from ISGlobal, Barcelona, Spain, in *PLOS Medicine*.

In the first study, the researchers compared cause of [death](#) determination from MIA and CDA in 18 stillbirths and 41 neonatal deaths. A cause of death was identified in 16/18 (89%) and 15/18 (83%) of stillborn babies and in all (100%) and 35/41 (85%) [neonatal deaths](#) in the CDA and the MIA, respectively. Causes of death identified for stillborn babies included [fetal growth restriction](#) (39%), infectious diseases (22%), intrapartum hypoxia (17%), and intrauterine hypoxia (11%), with the MIA showing substantial agreement with the CDA for categorization of disease (Kappa = 0.78, 95% CI [0.56-0.99]). For neonates, the majority of deaths were due to [infectious diseases](#) (66%) and the overall agreement of the MIA with the CDA for categorization of disease was moderate (Kappa = 0.40, 95% CI [0.18-0.63]).

In the second study, the researchers compared findings from MIA and CDA for 54 deaths in children

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