

Abstract

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### **The importance of sex and gender in general medicine**

Gender is an essential determinant of social outcomes, including health. Differences in health between men and women are due to the interactions of biological, psychological and social factors. Attention to gender differences is relevant not only in reproductive functions, but also in other fields such as the prevalence of diseases, risk factors, presentations of health complaints, impact of illness and the treatment. The WHO 'Gender Policy' recommends that an integration of gender considerations become standard as a contribution to better health for women and men.

The importance of gender for daily medical practice will be illustrated by the case of chest pain, alcohol abuse and problems in adolescence.