



## 5° Workshop: La salute della differenza

L'evoluzione del Sistema Socio Sanitario Lombardo a promozione della salute della donna

# Malattie cerebrovascolari e differenze di genere

*Anna Bersano*

*Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Neurologico C.Besta*

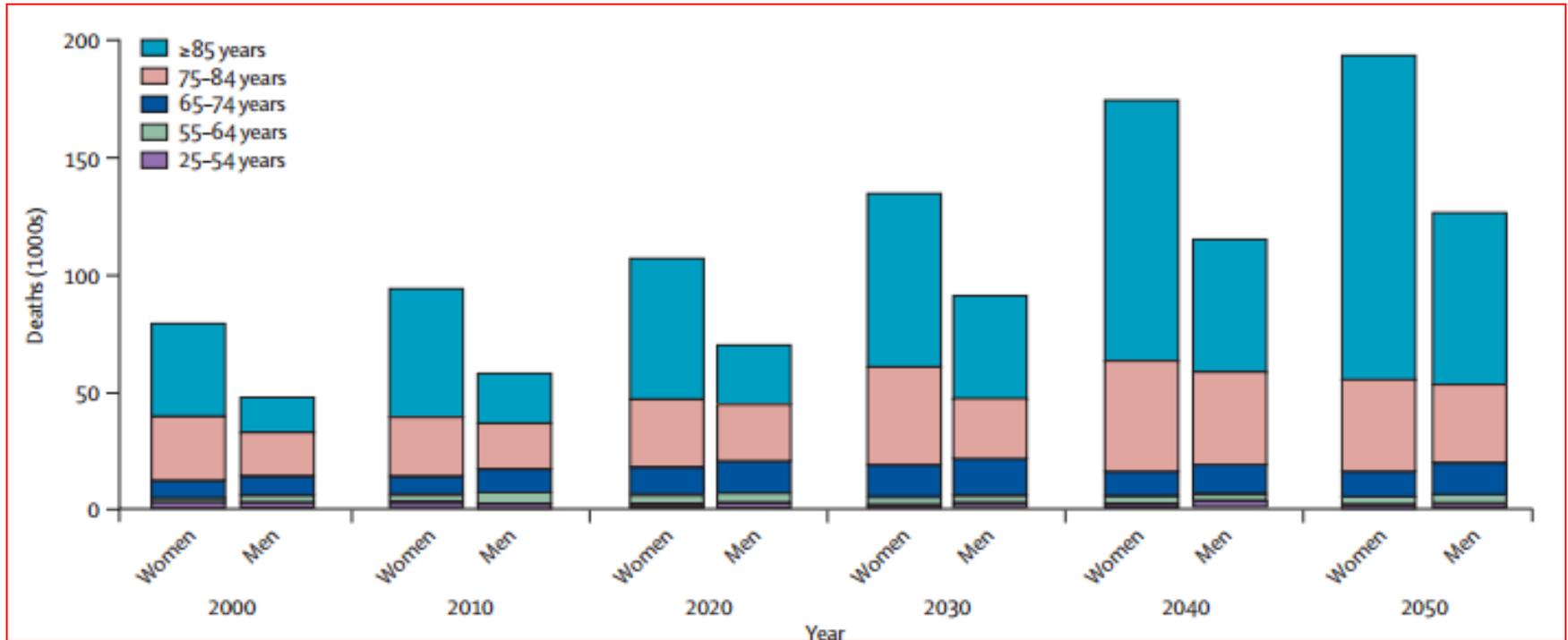
*Castellanza 30 novembre 2016*

# Stroke & women

Stroke in women is a recognised public health issue worldwide because of several aspects:

- Since women have longer life expectancies they have higher stroke prevalence
- Women have different risk factors and different heritability
- Women have a worse outcome and higher mortality due to the oldest age, comorbidities and different access to stroke care and prevention
- Stroke in women has a different societal (elderly women are more likely to live alone and socially isolated)

# Projected number of deaths from stroke among whites 2000-2050



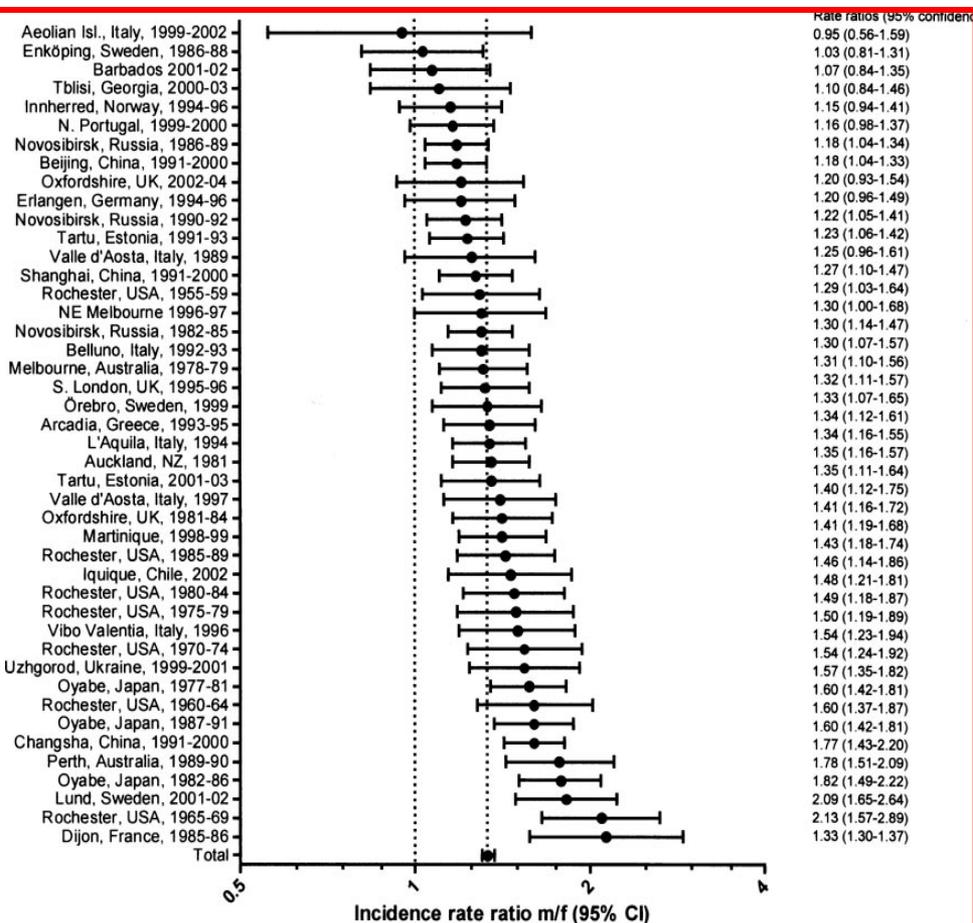
Need of addressing the specific biological, epidemiological clinical causes and features of stroke in women

*Reeves et al Lancet Neurol 2008*

## Sex Differences in Stroke Epidemiology

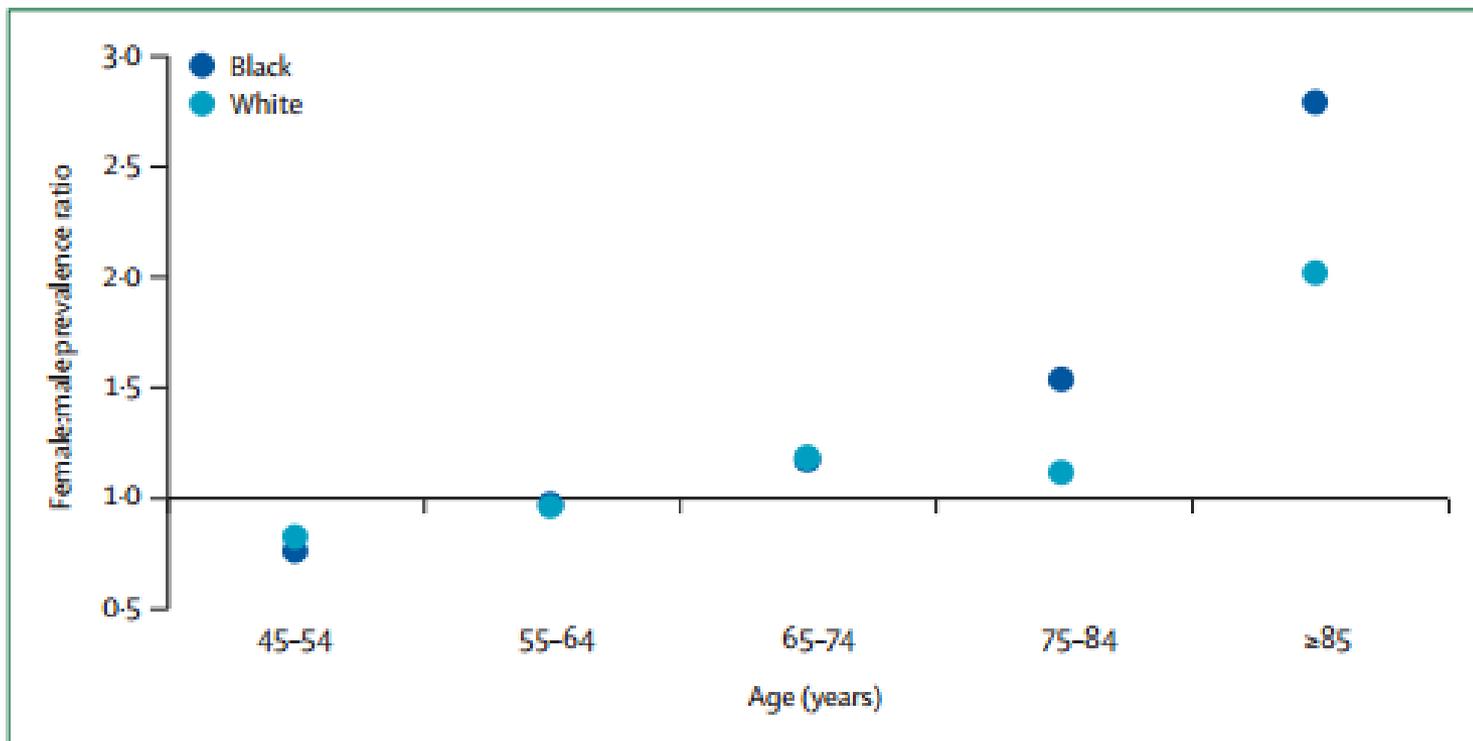
### A Systematic Review

Peter Appelros, MD, PhD; Birgitta Stegmayr, PhD; Andreas Terént, MD, PhD



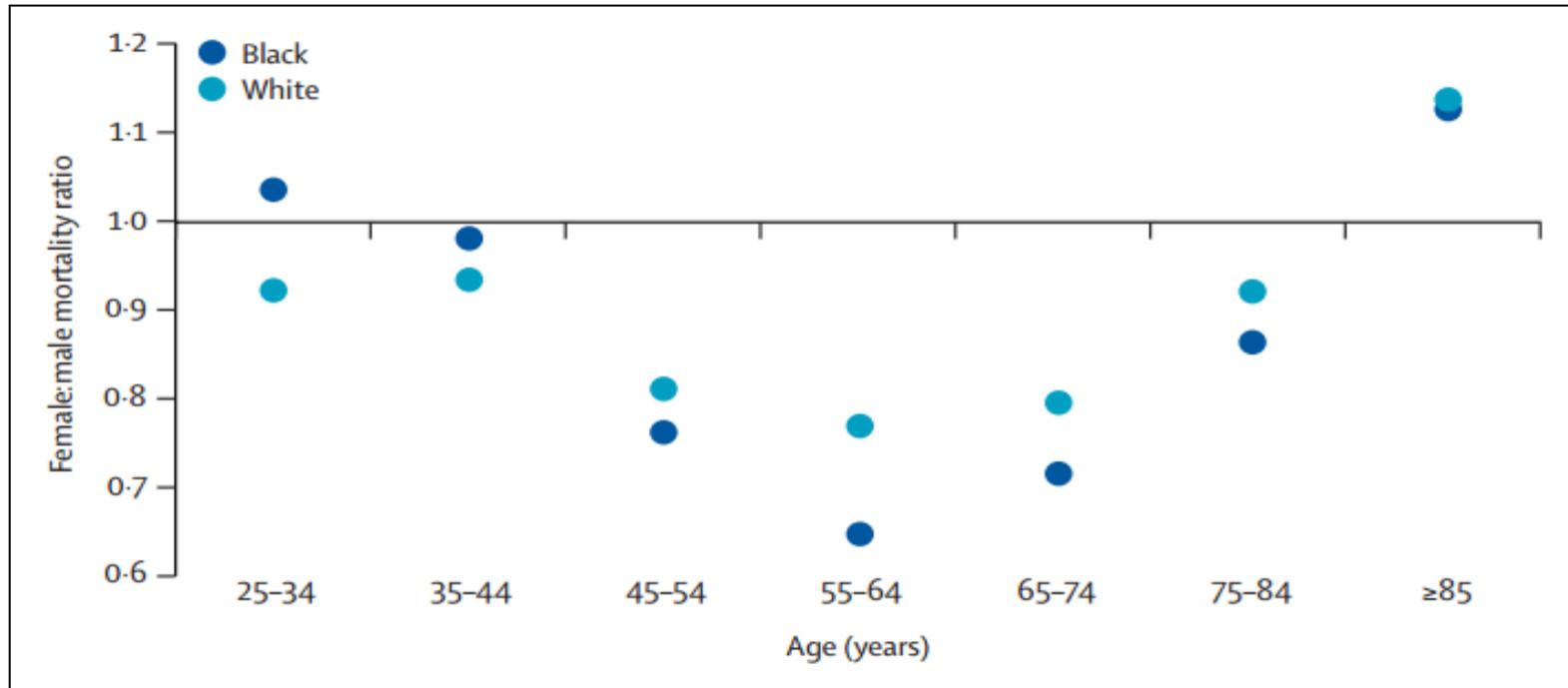
- 98 articles that contained relevant sex-specific information, including 59 incidence studies.
- The pooled age-adjusted rate ratio was 1.33 (95% CI, 1.30 to 1.37), meaning that stroke is 33% more incident in males than in females.

## Epidemiology: Female:male prevalence ratio



Fewer women than men have prevalent stroke at young age; over 75 years there are almost three times more black and two times more white women than men with stroke

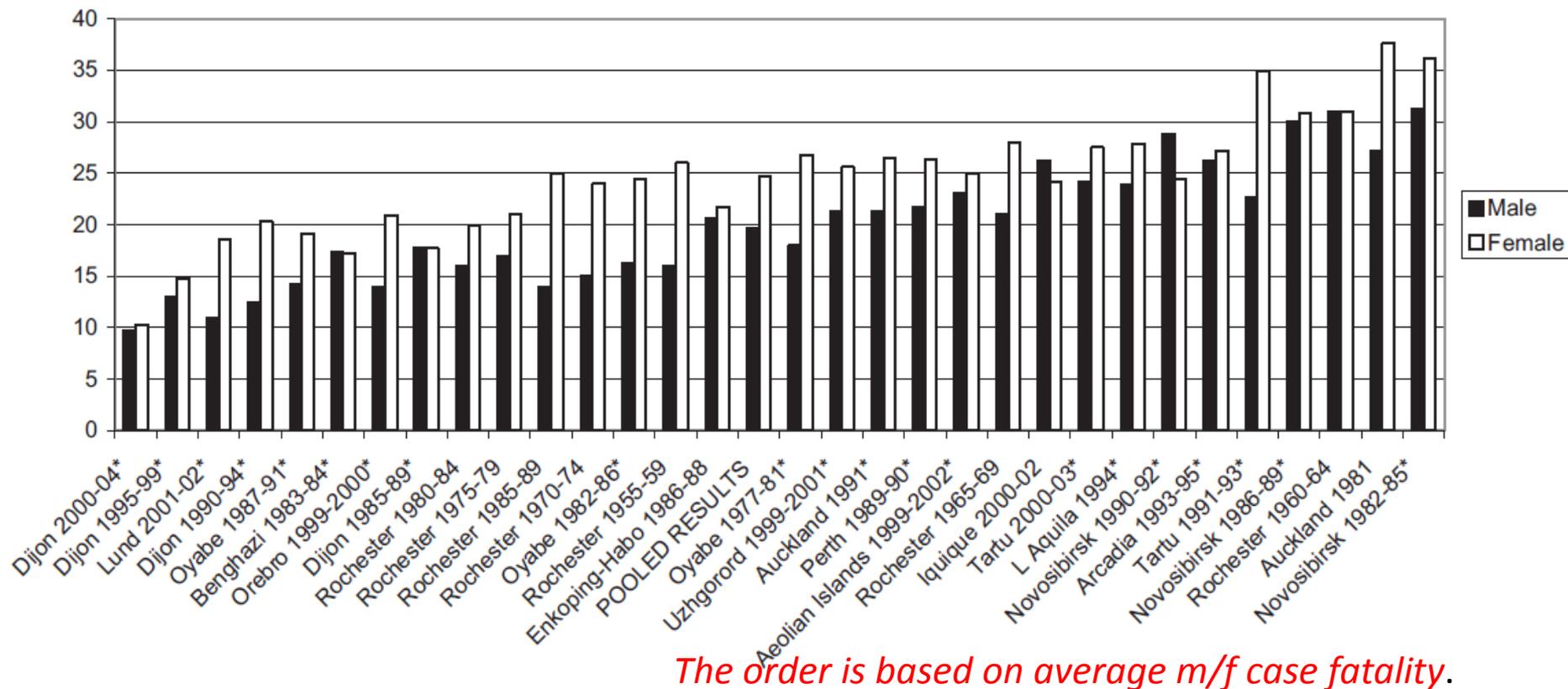
# Epidemiology: Female:male mortality ratio



## Sex Differences in Stroke Epidemiology

### A Systematic Review

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In almost all studies reviewed here, women have higher 1-month case fatality than men.

# Biological origin of sex differences in stroke

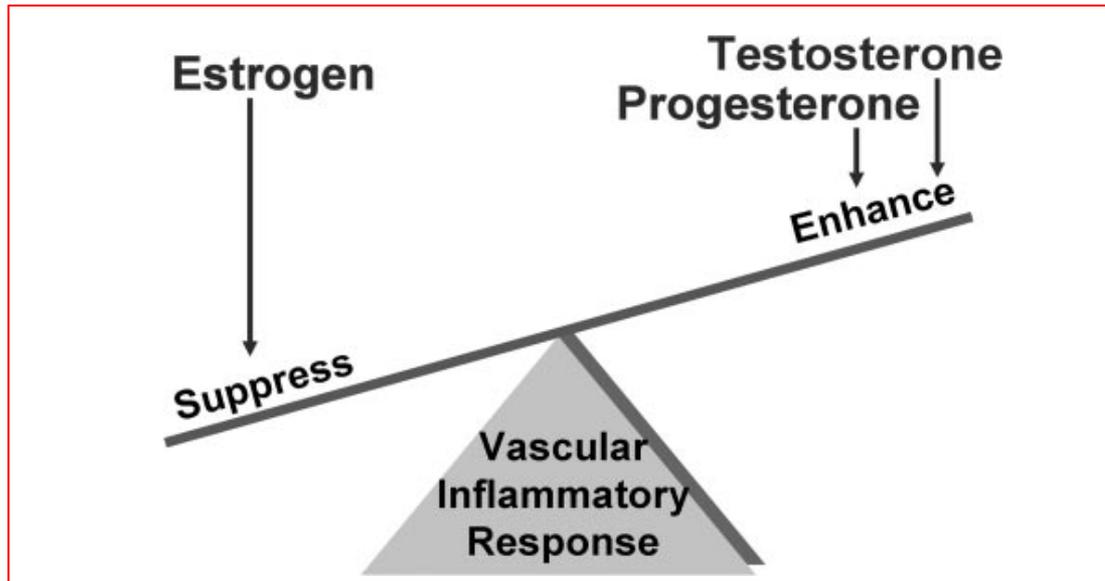
- Hormones
- Genetics
- Anatomics
- Drug methabolisms
- Cerebrovascular risk factors

# Hormones

- The most common biological explanation for sex differences in stroke is related to sex steroid hormones, in particular estrogens
- Female rodents after MCA occlusion have smaller stroke volumes than males, whereas in ovariectomised females stroke volume is similar to males (after oestrogen replacement are similar to intact females)







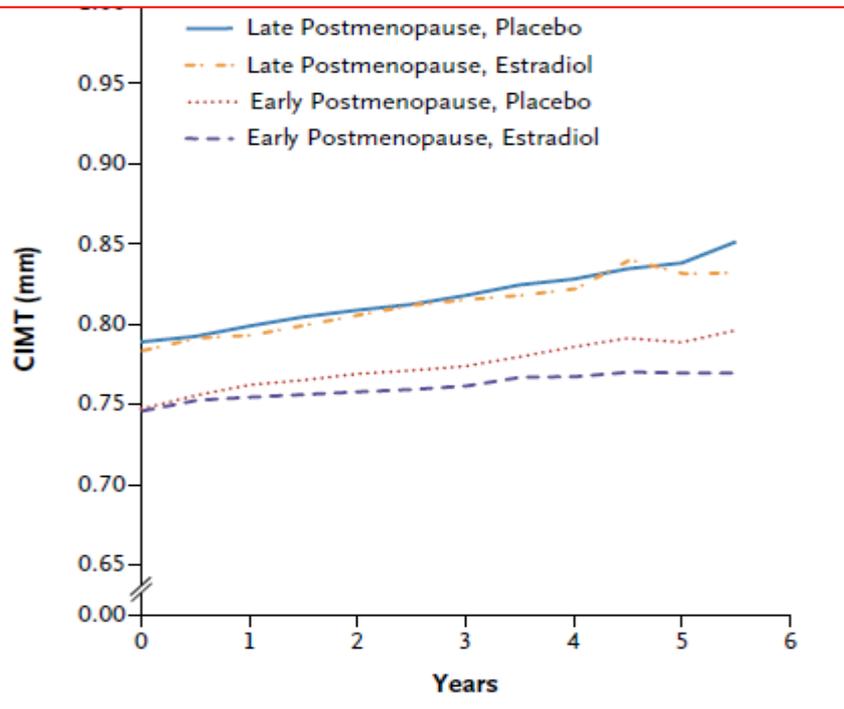
Chronic estrogen therapy suppresses leucocyte adhesion and induction of vascular inflammatory mediators such as iNOS and COX2 in cerebral blood vessels



# Hormone Replacement

## Vascular Effects of Early versus Late Postmenopausal Treatment with Estradiol

Howard N. Hodis, M.D., Wendy J. Mack, Ph.D., Victor W. Henderson, M.D., Donna Shoupe, M.D., Matthew J. Budoff, M.D., Juliana Hwang-Levine, Pharm.D., Yanjie Li, M.D., Mei Feng, M.D., Laurie Dustin, M.S., Naoko Kono, M.P.H., Frank Z. Stanczyk, Ph.D., Robert H. Selzer, M.S., and Stanley P. Azen, Ph.D., for the ELITE Research Group\*



643 healthy postmenopausal women stratified according to time since menopause

Oral estradiol was associated with less progression of subclinical atherosclerosis when therapy was initiated within 6 years after menopause



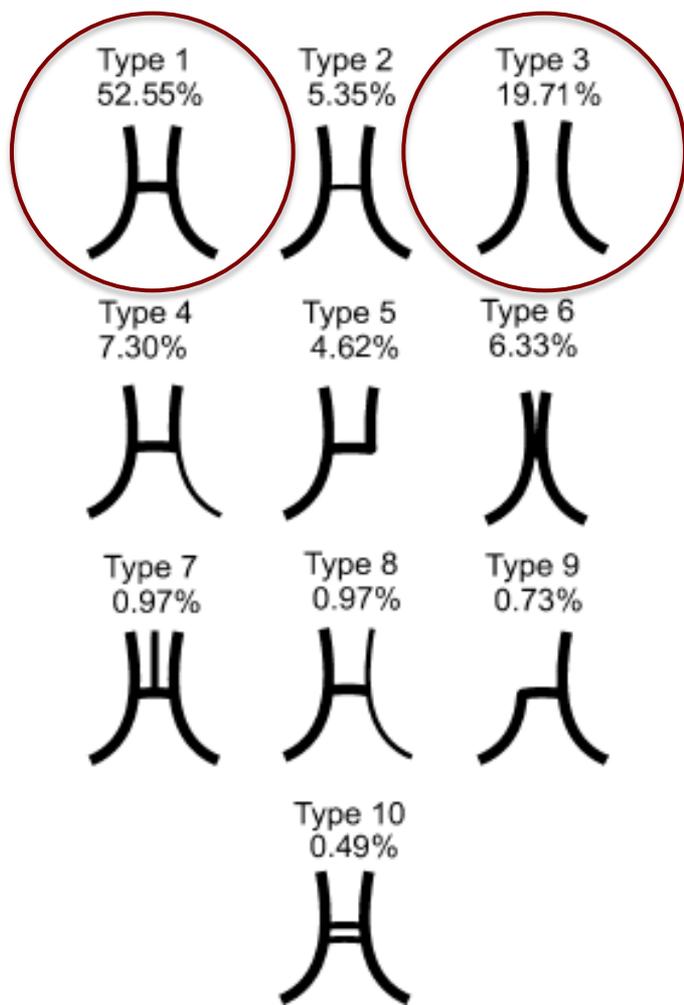
## Characterization of whole-genome autosomal differences of DNA methylation between men and women

1184 CpG sites differentially methylated between men and women, distributed across all autosomes;

some of the differentially methylated loci also exhibit differential gene expression between men and women.



# Anatomic differences



Type	Total (n = 411)	Female (n = 215)	Male (n = 196)	p value
1 (%)	216 (52.55)	99 (46.05)	117 (59.69)	<0.01
2 (%)	22 (5.35)	15 (6.98)	7 (3.57)	0.12
3 (%)	81 (19.71)	50 (23.26)	31 (15.88)	0.04
4 (%)	30 (7.30)	15 (6.98)	15 (7.65)	0.81
5 (%)	19 (4.62)	12 (5.58)	7 (3.57)	0.33
6 (%)	26 (6.33)	14 (6.51)	12 (6.12)	0.86
7 (%)	4 (0.97)	4 (1.86)	0 (0.00)	0.05
8 (%)	4 (0.97)	4 (1.86)	0 (0.00)	0.05
9 (%)	3 (0.73)	2 (0.93)	1 (0.51)	0.61
10 (%)	2 (0.49)	0 (0.00)	2 (1.02)	0.13
Unclassified	4 (0.97)	0 (0.00)	4 (2.04)	0.03

Giovannella Baggio\*, Alberto Corsini, Annarosa Floreani, Sandro Giannini  
and Vittorina Zagonel

## Gender medicine: a task for the third millennium

### Mechanism

### Gender-specific differences

#### General differences

Lean/fat mass ratio  
Distribution volume  
Drug binding

Lower lean/fat mass ratio in female  
Increased volume for lipophilic drugs in women  
Smaller and fluctuating distribution volume in females  
Increased volume for hydrophilic drugs in males  
Hormonal influences on drug binding

#### Gastrointestinal differences

Longer gastric emptying time in women due to  
slower motility  
Higher pH

#### Metabolic differences (phase I)

CYP

CYP1A2, CYP2E1, CYP2D6 all have higher activity in men  
CYP3A4 higher activity in females (maybe rate limiting step is P-glycoprotein)

#### Metabolic differences (phase II)

Not enough information available

#### Excretion differences

Females generally have lower GFR, mostly due to body size  
Active secretion might be reduced in females

# Common Cerebrovascular Risk factors

- **Age**

- ✓ Women with stroke are older at onset (about 4 yrs )

- **AF**

- ✓ Women were more likely to have AF

- ✓ Women with atrial fibrillation are at higher risk of stroke (3.5% vs. 1.8%; 95% CI 1.3-1.9), but they are less likely to receive anticoagulation and ablation procedures compared to men

- ✓ Compared to men women are less likely to undergo cardiac monitoring, enzyme measurement, recovery in coronary care unit, coronary angiography, and revascularization

# Common Cerebrovascular Risk factors

## Hypertension

- ✓ is more prominent in women
- ✓ higher association with strokes, LVH, and diastolic heart failure

## Dyslipidemia

With the menopause transition low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol increases in women. However, in a meta-analysis of observational cohort studies of 86,000 women, high levels of total and LDL-cholesterol strongly predicted CHD in women.

## Diabetes

Type 2 diabetes has greater effects in women. It is a potent coronary risk factor in women, increasing their risk of developing or dying from CHD by three- to seven-fold, as compared with a two- to three-fold risk increase in men.

# The gender gap in stroke: a meta-analysis

Giralt D, Domingues-Montanari S, Mendioroz M, Ortega L, Maisterra O, Perea-Gainza M, Delgado P, Rosell A, Montaner J. The gender gap in stroke: a meta-analysis.

Acta Neurol Scand: 2012; 125: 83–90.

© 2011 John Wiley & Sons A/S.

**D. Giralt, S. Domingues-Montanari, M. Mendioroz, L. Ortega, O. Maisterra, M. Perea-Gainza, P. Delgado, A. Rosell, J. Montaner**

## 45 studies for 673.935 patients

Variables	Number of studies	P% (IQ)	Women		Men		OR (95% CI)	P-value	OR removing large studies	P-value
			Event	Total	Event	Total				
Risk factors										
Alcohol *†	6	98 (97–99)	11,545	17,755	14,254	19,013	0.29 (0.16–0.51)	<0.001	–	
Cigarette smoking *†	27	97 (67–97)	40,369	250,913	57,132	227,879	0.51 (0.44–0.59)	<0.001	0.49 (0.4–0.61)	<0.001
Hyperlipidemia *†	19	84 (76–89)	76,623	224,690	75,462	201,926	0.9 (0.82–0.99)	0.033	0.9 (0.8–1.02)	0.09
Hypertension*†	33	93 (90–95)	214,728	309,163	187,858	288,504	1.15 (1.07–1.24)	<0.001	1.1 (1.07–1.13)	<0.001
Diabetes *†	36	80 (67–88)	82,657	314,521	81,428	293,084	0.88 (0.84–0.93)	<0.001	0.89 (0.8–0.98)	0.02
Atrial fibrillation *†	29	83 (77–88)	55,954	287,669	40,556	269,374	1.31 (1.24–1.4)	<0.001	1.31 (1.21–1.43)	<0.001
Myocardial infarction *†	11	95 (92–96)	50,412	216,671	60,025	193,904	0.76 (0.62–0.94)	0.013	0.76 (0.55–1.05)	0.99
Peripheral vascular disease†	8	94 (91–96)	2,202	33,967	2,245	32,806	0.76 (0.53–1.08)	0.121	–	
Stroke subtype and severity										
Transient cerebral ischemia†	6	74 (42–89)	2,513	9,881	2,052	9,455	1.1 (0.92–1.33)	0.305	–	
PACI†	7	74 (45–88)	2,265	6,116	2,302	6,514	1.03 (0.91–1.16)	0.671	–	
TACI†	7	81 (61–90)	3,447	14,119	3,171	15,777	1.16 (0.98–1.37)	0.084	–	
POCI*†	7	63 (16–84)	924	6,012	1,206	6,514	0.76 (0.66–0.87)	<0.001	–	
LACI†	11	54 (10–77)	3,612	16,101	4,551	18,423	0.96 (0.87–1.05)	0.363	–	
Cardioembolic *†	12	67 (39–82)	1,017	3,855	908	4,218	1.32 (1.08–1.62)	0.007	–	
Atherothrombotic *†	8	74 (48–87)	793	2,715	1,079	3,061	0.68 (0.51–0.91)	0.008	–	
Diagnosis tests										
Cranial MRI†	5	79 (49–91)	11,560	16,058	12,924	17,344	0.83 (0.67–1.03)	0.091	–	
Angiography†	6	68 (23–86)	996	6,165	1,117	6,123	0.85 (0.68–1.07)	0.159	–	
Ecocardiography†	7	78 (53–89)	3,492	7,680	3,772	7,802	0.86 (0.72–1.03)	0.109	–	
Carotid imaging†	3	75 (16–92)	1,816	2,499	2,063	2,688	0.76 (0.57–1.02)	0.068	–	
Holter†	2	81 (19–96)	459	2,838	497	3,210	1.01 (0.71–1.44)	0.952	–	
Lipids test†	4	91 (81–96)	2,735	6,982	2,949	6,685	0.91 (0.69–1.19)	0.488	–	
Acute-phase treatments and secondary prevention										
Antiplatelets *†	15	62 (33–78)	31,558	45,458	32,621	45,599	0.89 (0.84–0.94)	<0.001	–	
Warfarin *	6	40 (0–85)	1,972	8,654	2,101	8,141	0.93 (0.79–1.09)	0.373	–	
ACE Inhibitors	2	20 (–)	1,340	5,298	1,605	4,817	0.78 (0.34–1.81)	0.563	–	
Statins *†	6	74 (41–89)	3,759	10,030	4,191	9,095	0.71 (0.6–0.84)	<0.001	–	
tPA*	7	45 (0–77)	9,573	232,889	10,596	213,772	0.8 (0.73–0.87)	<0.001	0.76 (0.65–0.87)	<0.001

ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme

# Specific risk factors

## Pregnancy

Pregnancy results in hemostatic changes (increasing of clotting factors and decreasing in anticoagulants and fibrinolytic activity). Risk of stroke 34 vs 11/100.000 deliveries

## Oral anticonception (OAC)

OAC use is associated with up to 2-3 fold increase the risk of stroke  
Additional factors such as age >35 yrs, migraine, hypertension, trombophilia and smoking increase the risk up to 20-30 times

# Sex difference: atherosclerotic plaque

## Gender-associated differences in plaque phenotype of patients undergoing carotid endarterectomy

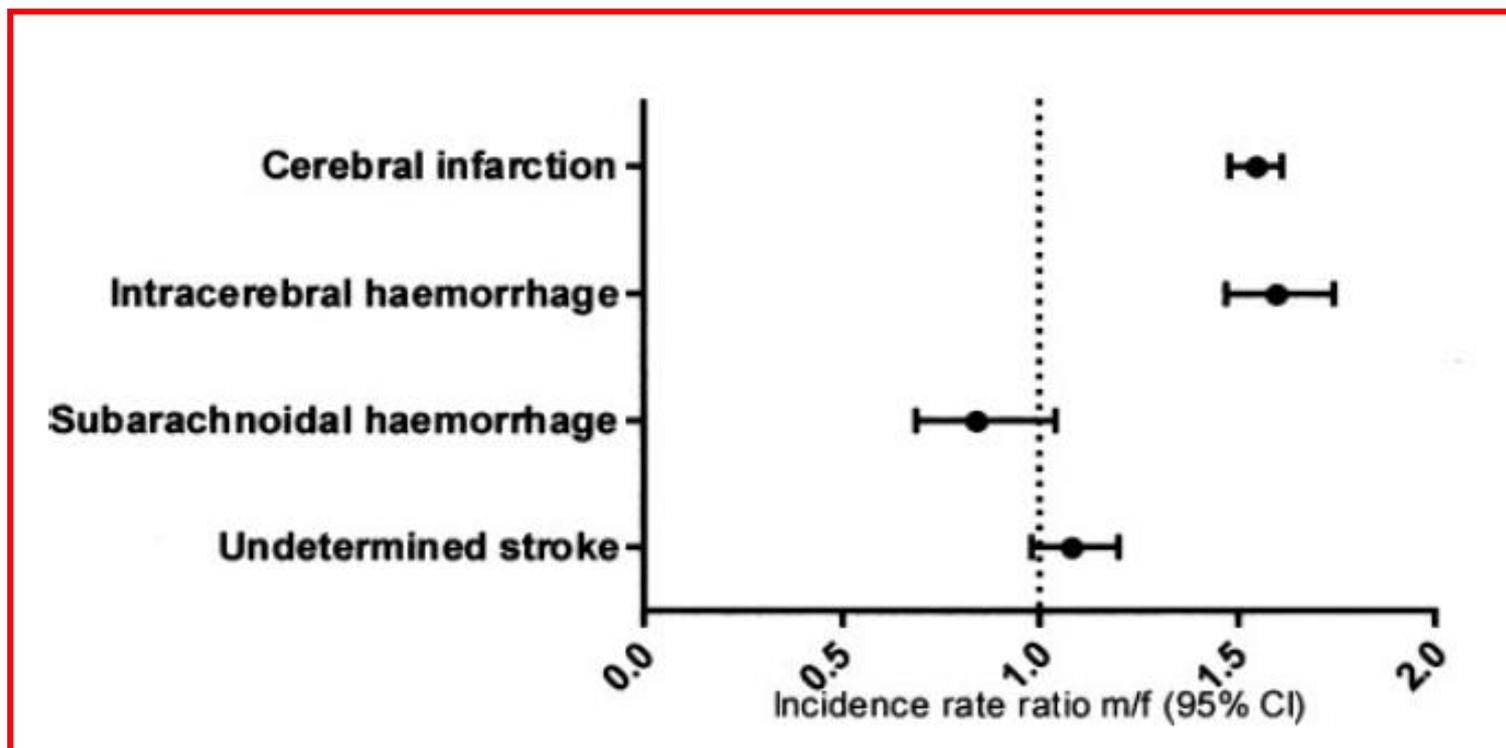
Willem E. Hellings, MD,<sup>a,b</sup> Gerard Pasterkamp, MD, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Bart A. N. Verhoeven, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup>
  
 Dominique P. V. De Kleijn, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Jean-Paul P. M. De Vries, MD, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Kees A. Seldenrijk, MD, PhD,<sup>d</sup>
  
 Theo van den Broek, MD,<sup>b</sup> and Frans L. Moll, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> *Utrecht and Nieuwegein, The Netherlands*

**Table II.** Comparison of carotid plaque histology between men and women

	Women* (%)	Men* (%)	P (univariate)	P (multivariate) <sup>†</sup>
Overall phenotype (semi-quantitative)			<.001 <sup>‡</sup>	.006 <sup>‡</sup>
Fibrous	40.7	24.4		
Fibroatheromatous	37.8	35.2		
Atheromatous	21.5	40.3		
Luminal thrombus			.26	.45
No	77.0	70.6		
Yes	23.0	29.4		
Macrophages (semi-quantitative)			.05 <sup>†</sup>	.20
No	18	10.6		
Minor	31.6	33.2		
Moderate	36.8	35.2		
Heavy	13.5	21		
Macrophages (quantitative)			.12	.36
Median area %	0.26	0.39		
IQR	(0.08-0.95)	(0.07-1.30)		
SMC (semi-quantitative)			.001 <sup>‡</sup>	.01 <sup>‡</sup>
No	0.8	1.9		
Minor	20.3	32.9		
Moderate	41.4	41.9		
Heavy	37.6	24.2		
SMC (quantitative)			.03 <sup>‡</sup>	.03 <sup>‡</sup>
Median area %	2.27	1.62		
IQR	(0.86-4.35)	(0.47-3.58)		
Collagen (semi-quantitative)			.08	.39
No	0.0	0.3		
Minor	19.4	22.6		
Moderate	53.0	57.6		
Heavy	27.6	19.4		
Calcifications (semi-quantitative)			.41	.88
No	29.6	25.7		
Minor	15.6	24.8		
Moderate	28.9	31.1		
Heavy	25.9	18.4		

- Carotid endarterectomy specimens of 450 pts (135 women, 315 men) (75% sympt).
- Women undergoing CEA have more stable plaques compared with men.
- Plaques obtained from women contain less fat & macrophages and more smooth muscle cells. This is accompanied by lower IL-8 content and lower MMP-8 activity.

# Sex differences in clinical presentation



Women are older when they get their first stroke, and SAH and cardioembolic strokes are proportionally more common among women

# Sex differences in clinical presentation

- Women tend to have anterior circulation ischemia, whereas men are believed to have higher incidences of posterior circulation syndromes
- Labiche et al have reported that females at stroke onset were more likely to present with “non-traditional” stroke symptoms compared with men (pain and reduced level of consciousness)
- Females tended to have higher NIHSS at admission

## Acute Stroke Symptoms: Do Differences Exist between Sexes?

Monica Acciarresi, MD, Pierpaolo De Luca, MD, Valeria Caso, MD, PhD,  
Giancarlo Agnelli, MD, Cataldo D'Amore, MD, Andrea Alberti, MD,  
Michele Venti, MD, PhD, and Maurizio Paciaroni, MD

1883 patients, 1072 men (56.9%) and 811 women (43.1%)

Type of stroke	Total		Male		Female		P value
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Total number of patients	1883		1072	56.9	811	43.1	
Age							
Mean $\pm$ SD			70.14 $\pm$ 12.61		75.40 $\pm$ 12.90		<.0001
Median			72		78		
Ischemic stroke/TIA	1626	86.4	921	85.9	705	86.9	.5
Hemorrhagic stroke	257	13.6	151	14.1	106	13.1	.5
Relapse	242	12.9	137	12.8	105	12.9	.9
TACI*	219	11.6	90	10.3	129	19.2	<.0001
PACI*	626	33.2	343	39.1	283	42.2	.22
LACI*	419	22.3	267	30.4	152	22.7	.001
POCI*	283	15.0	177	20.2	106	15.8	.029
Arteriosclerosis	430	22.8	269	25.1	161	19.8	.008
Cardiac embolism	470	25.0	219	20.4	251	30.9	<.0001
Small vessel disease	371	19.7	230	21.4	141	17.4	.03
Undetermined cause	427	22.7	245	22.8	182	22.4	.86
Others cause	163	8.7	95	8.9	68	8.4	.74
Thrombolysis i.a. or i.v.	156	8.3	99	9.2	57	7.0	.09

## Racial and Gender Differences in Stroke Severity, Outcomes, and Treatment in Patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke

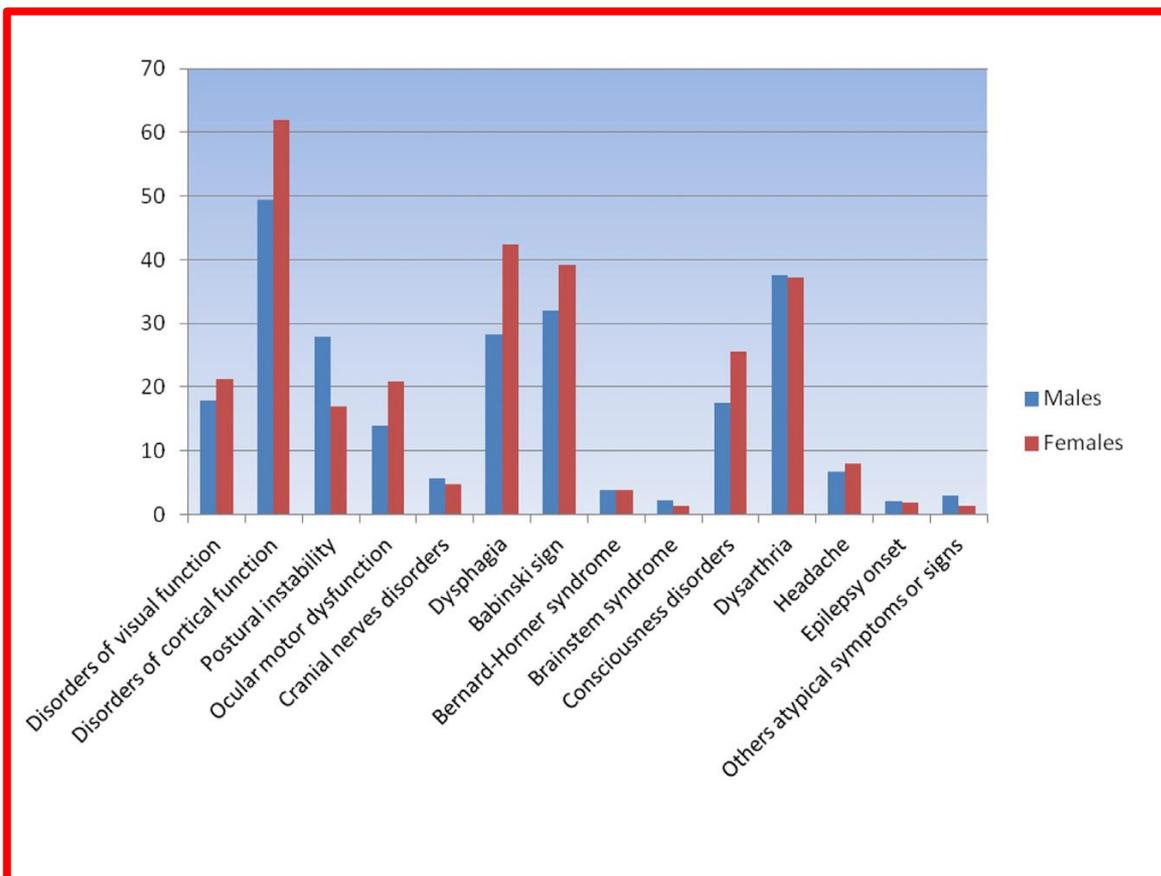
Amelia K. Boehme, MSPH,<sup>\*†</sup> James E. Siegler, MD,<sup>‡</sup> Michael T. Mullen, MD,<sup>§</sup>  
 Karen C. Albright, DO, MPH,<sup>\*||¶</sup> Michael J. Lyster, MD,<sup>†</sup>  
 Dominique J. Monlezun, BS,<sup>‡</sup> Erica M. Jones, BS,<sup>‡</sup> Rikki Tanner, MPH,<sup>\*</sup>  
 Nicole R. Gonzales, MD,<sup>#</sup> T. Mark Beasley, PhD,<sup>\*\*</sup> James C. Grotta, MD,<sup>#</sup>  
 Sean I. Savitz, MD,<sup>#</sup> and Sheryl Martin-Schild, MD, PhD<sup>‡</sup>

### 4925 pts with AIS

	Women (N = 2372)	Men (N = 2605)	P value	Black (N = 1942)	White (N = 2983)	P value
Age, median (range)	68 (15-100)	63 (26-100)	<.0001	62 (25-100)	67 (13-100)	<.0001
Medical history, %						
Atrial fibrillation	430 (18.2%)	345 (13.3%)	<.0001	197 (10.2%)	573 (19.2%)	<.0001
Diabetes	802 (33.9%)	788 (30.3%)	.0059	686 (35.5%)	888 (29.8%)	<.0001
Hypertension	1847 (78.1%)	1863 (71.6%)	<.0001	1579 (81.6%)	2089 (70.2%)	<.0001
Hyperlipidemia	604 (29.5%)	674 (31.3%)	.2688	398 (27.4%)	873 (31.8%)	.0030
Congestive heart failure	248 (11.7%)	218 (9.6%)	.0256	195 (12.5%)	268 (9.6%)	.0027
NIHSS on admission, median (range)	8 (0-40)	6 (0-40)	<.0001	7 (0-40)	7 (0-40)	.4270
Stroke etiology, %			.0001			<.0001
Cardioembolic	783 (33.4%)	795 (30.9%)		547 (28.6%)	1018 (34.6%)	
Large vessel	477 (20.3%)	669 (26.0%)		436 (22.8%)	697 (23.7%)	
Small vessel	364 (15.5%)	412 (16%)		378 (19.7%)	387 (13.1%)	
Cryptogenic	82 (3.5%)	82 (3.1%)		89 (4.5%)	69 (2.3%)	
Other	638 (27.2%)	612 (23.8%)		466 (24.3%)	775 (26.3%)	
tPA use, %	679 (33.2%)	706 (32.5%)	.6745	434 (29.9%)	949 (34.6%)	.0019
Arrived within 3 h, %	1000 (48.9%)	1062 (49%)	.9441	659 (45.4%)	1399 (51%)	.0005

## Acute Stroke Symptoms: Do Differences Exist between Sexes?

Monica Acciarresi, MD, Pierpaolo De Luca, MD, Valeria Caso, MD, PhD,  
 Giancarlo Agnelli, MD, Cataldo D'Amore, MD, Andrea Alberti, MD,  
 Michele Venti, MD, PhD, and Maurizio Paciaroni, MD



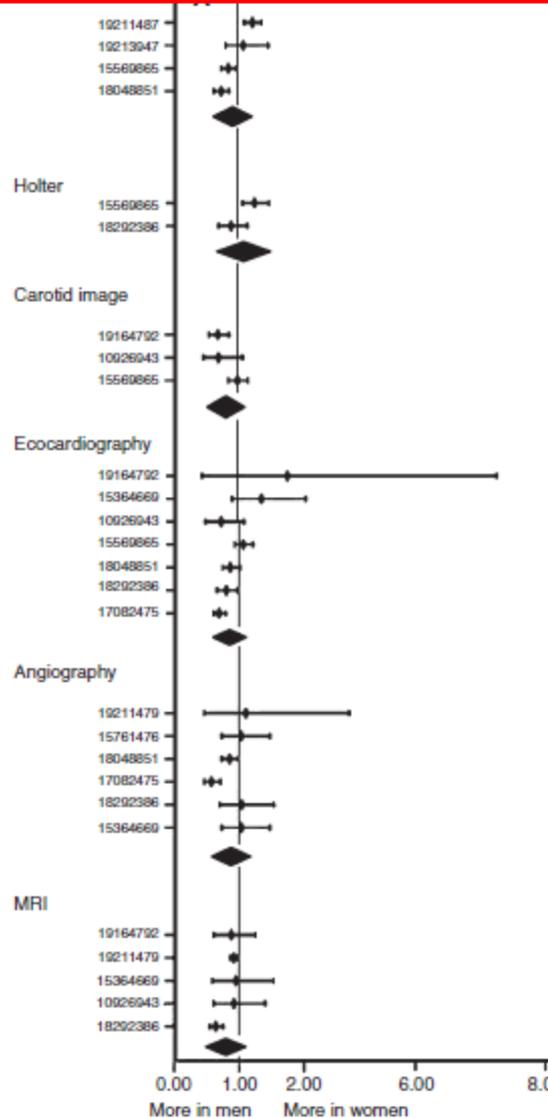
# Why stroke is more severe in women ?

- Biological phenomenon in which females response to brain ischemia and ischemic risk is different
- Older age (women develop stroke about 5 years later than men)
- Cardioembolic stroke
- Disparity in providing healthcare facilities between men and women

# The gender gap in stroke: a meta-analysis

Giralt D, Domingues-Montanari S, Mendioroz M, Ortega L, Maisterra O, Perea-Gainza M, Delgado P, Rosell A, Montaner J. The gender gap in stroke: a meta-analysis.

D. Giralt, S. Domingues-Montanari, M. Mendioroz, L. Ortega, O. Maisterra

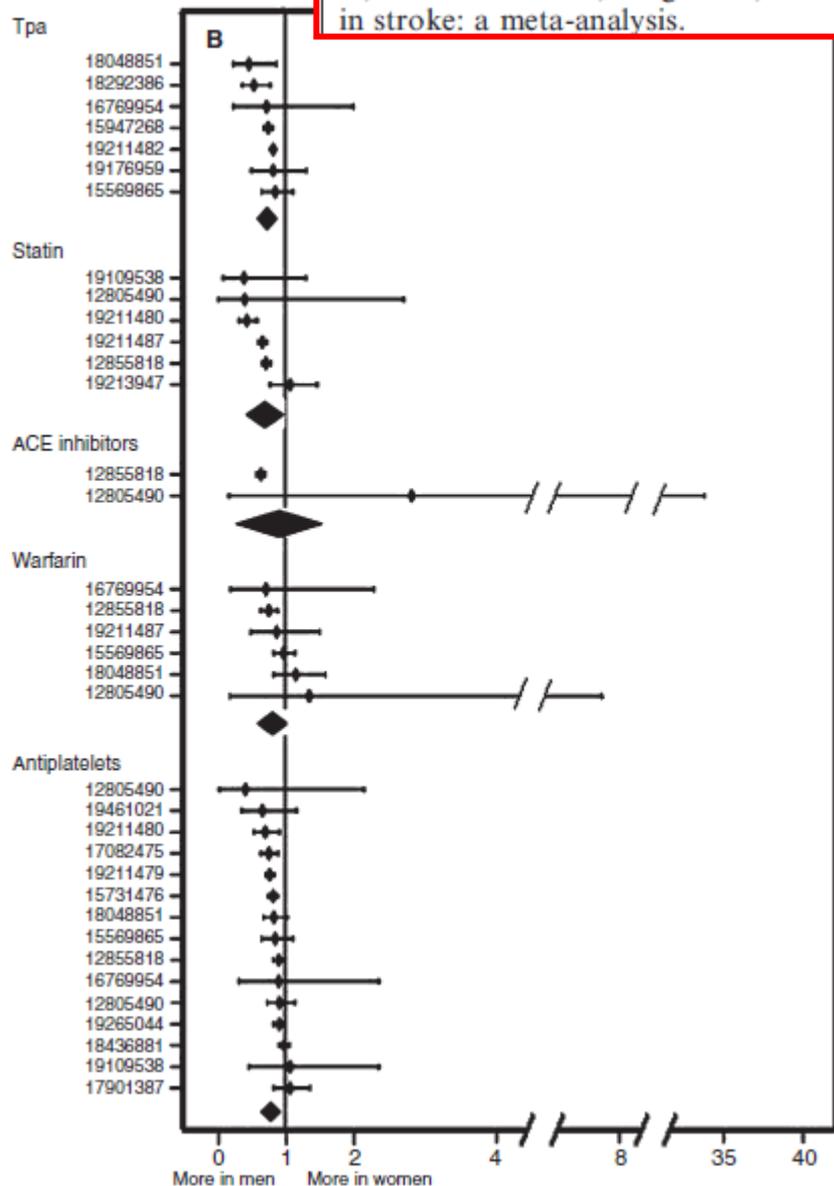


Comprehensive meta-analysis including 45 articles, representing a total of **673,935** patients

# The gender gap in stroke: a meta-analysis

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D. Giralt, S. Domingues-Montanari, M. Mendioroz, L. Ortega, O. Maisterra



- Women suffered more cardioembolic strokes,
- Women were less likely to receive stroke-related treatments, such as antiplatelets ( $P < 0.001$ ), statins ( $P < 0.001$ ), and tPA ( $P < 0.001$ ) than men.

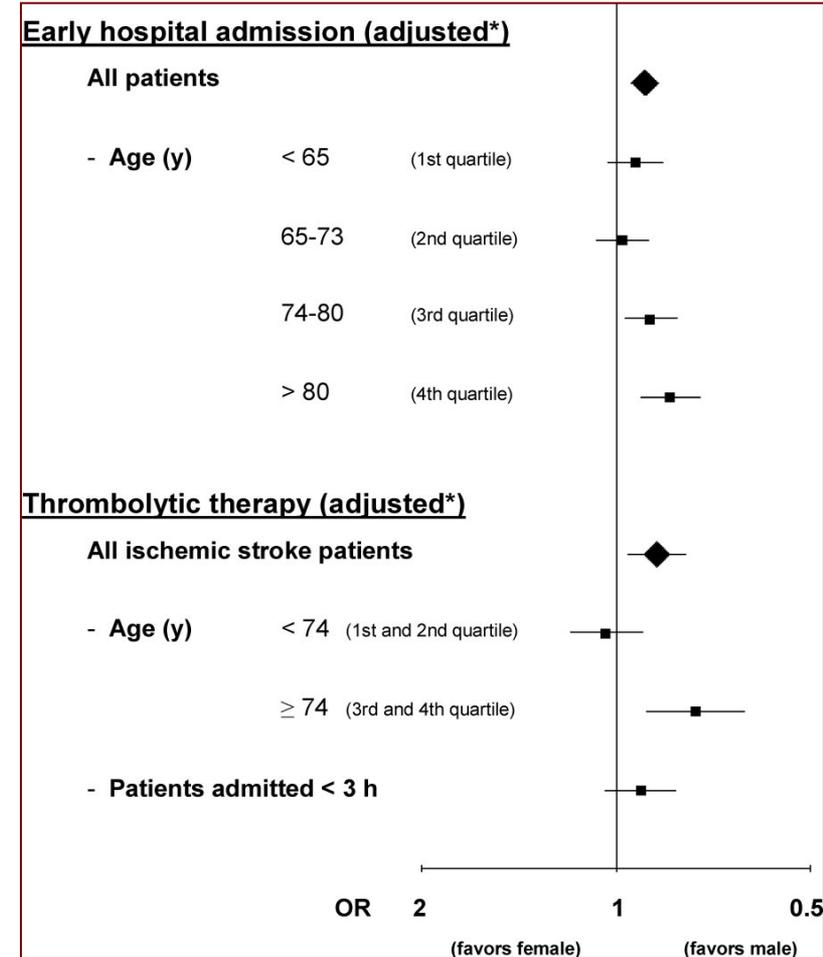
# Onset-to-door

After multivariate adjustment, women were found to have a 10% smaller chance of being admitted <3 hours of symptom onset than men (odds ratio [OR]=0.902, 95% CI=0.860 to 0.945, P<0.001).

After adjustment in the multivariate model, the chance of a female stroke patient being treated with thrombolysis was 13% lower than that of a male patient (OR=0.867, 95% CI=0.782 to 0.960, P<0.006).

Elderly female patients had a 25% smaller chance of receiving thrombolytic treatment (OR=0.753, 95% CI=0.634 to 0.895, P<0.001).

	Women (n=26 319)	Men (n=27 095)
Age, mean±SD, y	75.3±12.3	69.1±11.9



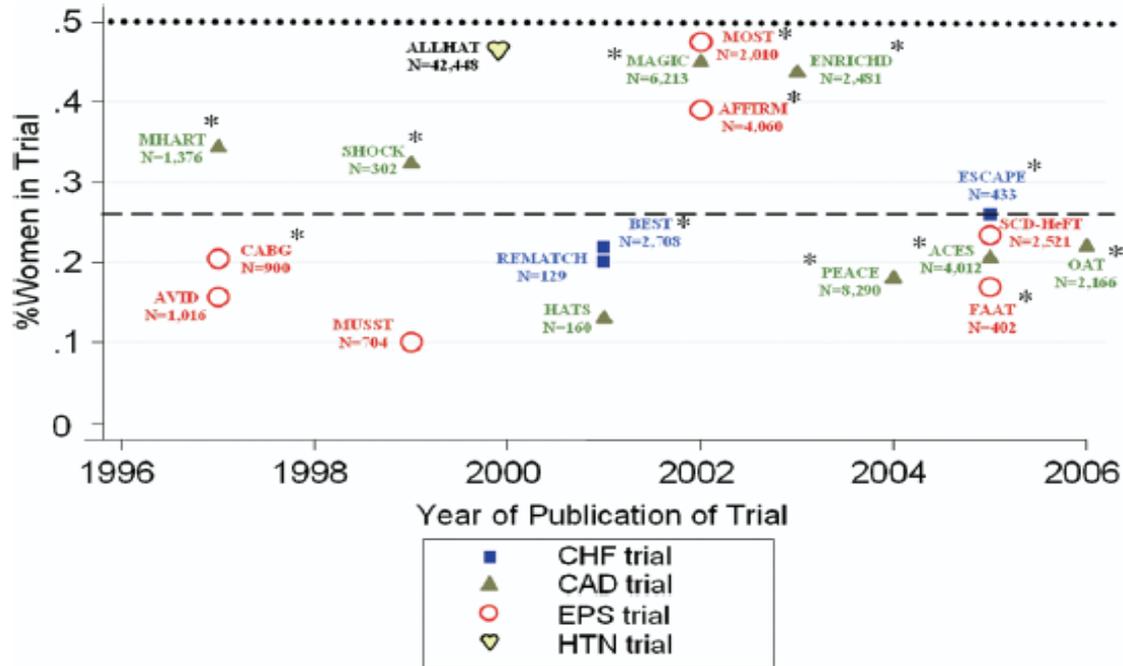
## **Sex-related differences in presentation, treatment, and outcome of patients with atrial fibrillation in Europe: a report from the Euro Observational Research Programme Pilot survey on Atrial Fibrillation**

- Dataset of the Euro Observational Research Programme on Atrial Fibrillation (EORP-AF) Pilot survey (n= 3119) examined sex-related differences in presentation, treatment, and outcome of patients with AF in Europe
- Female subjects were older (P= 0.0001), with a greater proportion aged  $\geq 75$  years, with more heart failure and hypertension
- CHA2DS2-VASc score  $\geq 2$  was found in 94.7% of females and 74.6% of males (P , 0.0001)

## Sex-related differences in presentation, treatment, and outcome of patients with atrial fibrillation in Europe: a report from the Euro Observational Research Programme Pilot survey on Atrial Fibrillation

	Whole cohort	Females	Males	P-value
N	3119	1260	1859	
Interventions performed/planned at enrolment				
Electrical cardioversion (%)	22.8	18.9	25.5	<0.0001
Pharmacological conversion (%)	24.7	28.2	22.4	0.0002
Catheter ablation for AF <sup>a</sup> (%)	7.4	6.7	7.9	0.1905
Pacemaker implantation (%)	4.7	5.4	4.2	0.1017
ICD implantation (%)	1.1	0.6	1.4	0.0569
AF surgery (%)	0.4	0.3	0.4	>0.9999

# Enrollment of Women in National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute-Funded Cardiovascular Randomized Controlled Trials Fails to Meet Current Federal Mandates for Inclusion



**Figure 1** Enrollment of Women in NHLBI-Sponsored Phase 3 to 4 Cardiovascular Randomized Cardiovascular Trials From 1997 to 2006

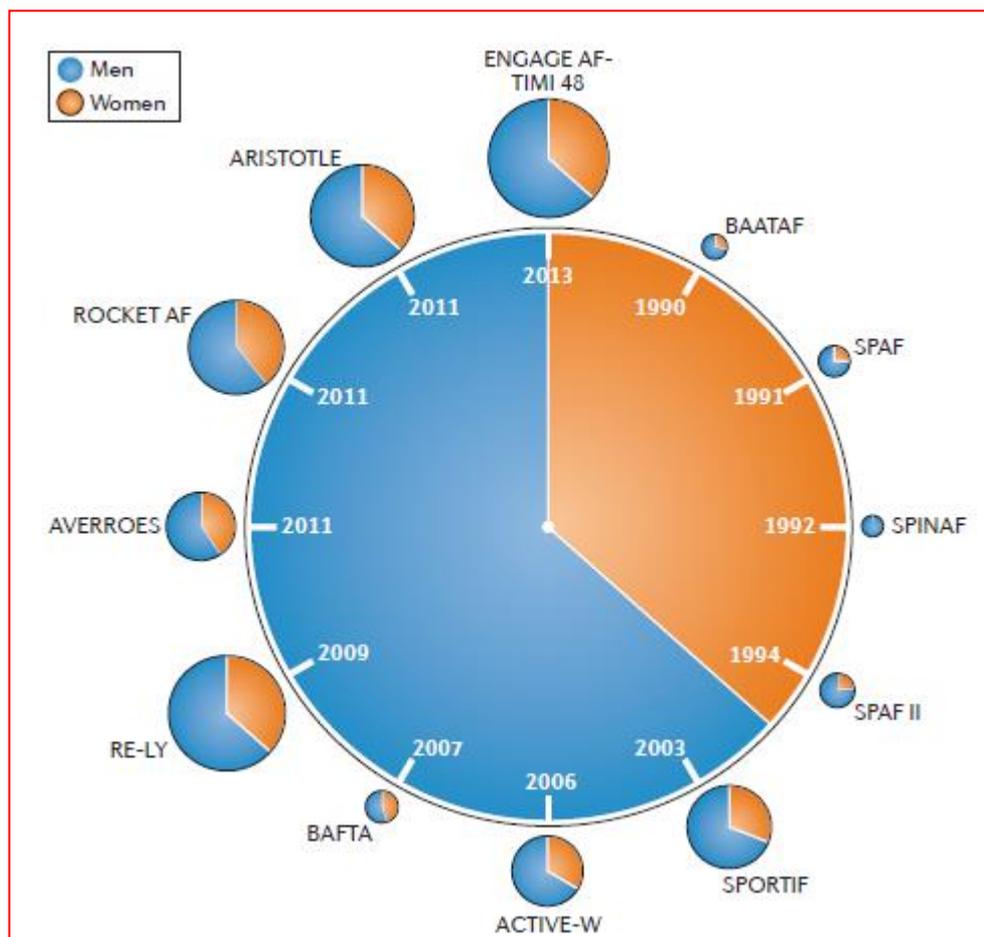
Average women enrollment=27%

\* Subgroup analysis based on gender

Kim ESH et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2008;52(8):672.

# Atrial fibrillation in women: treatment

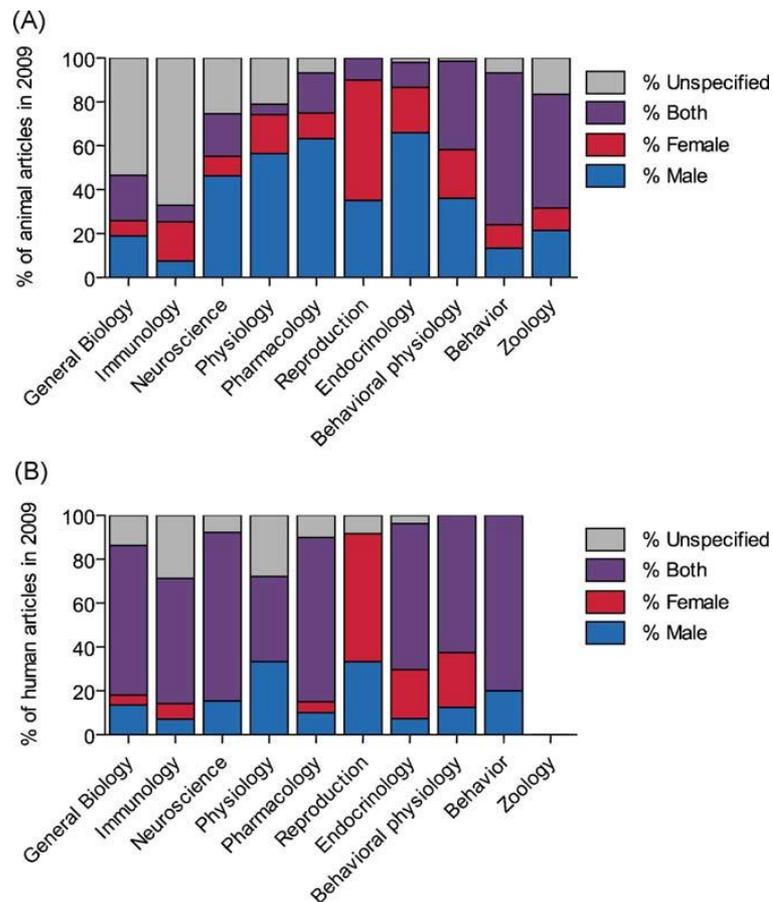
Darae Ko<sup>1\*</sup>, Faisal Rahman<sup>1\*</sup>, Maria A. P. Martins<sup>2,3\*</sup>, Elaine M. Hylek<sup>1</sup>, Patrick T. Ellinor<sup>4</sup>,  
 Renate B. Schnabel<sup>5,6</sup>, Emelia J. Benjamin<sup>3,7,8</sup> and Ingrid E. Christophersen<sup>4,9</sup>



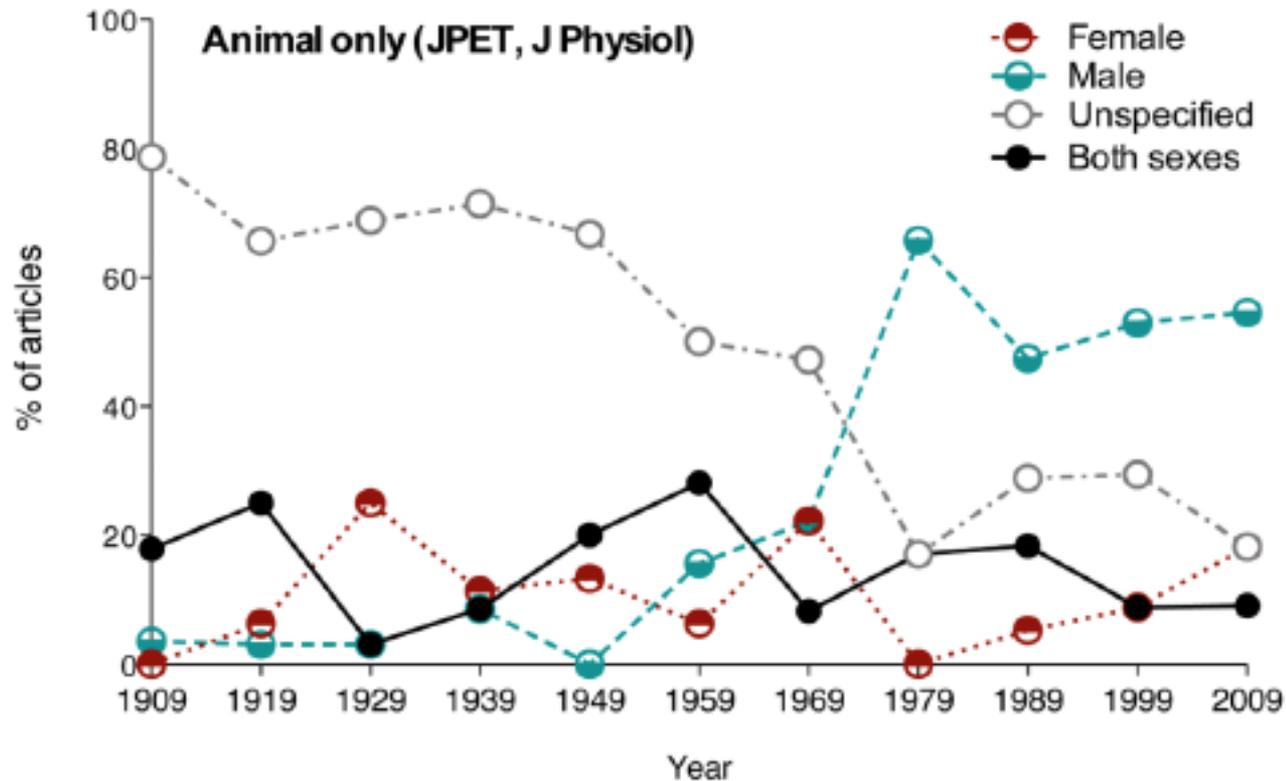
# Sex bias in neuroscience and biomedical research

Annaliese K. Beery<sup>a</sup>, Irving Zucker<sup>b,c,\*</sup>

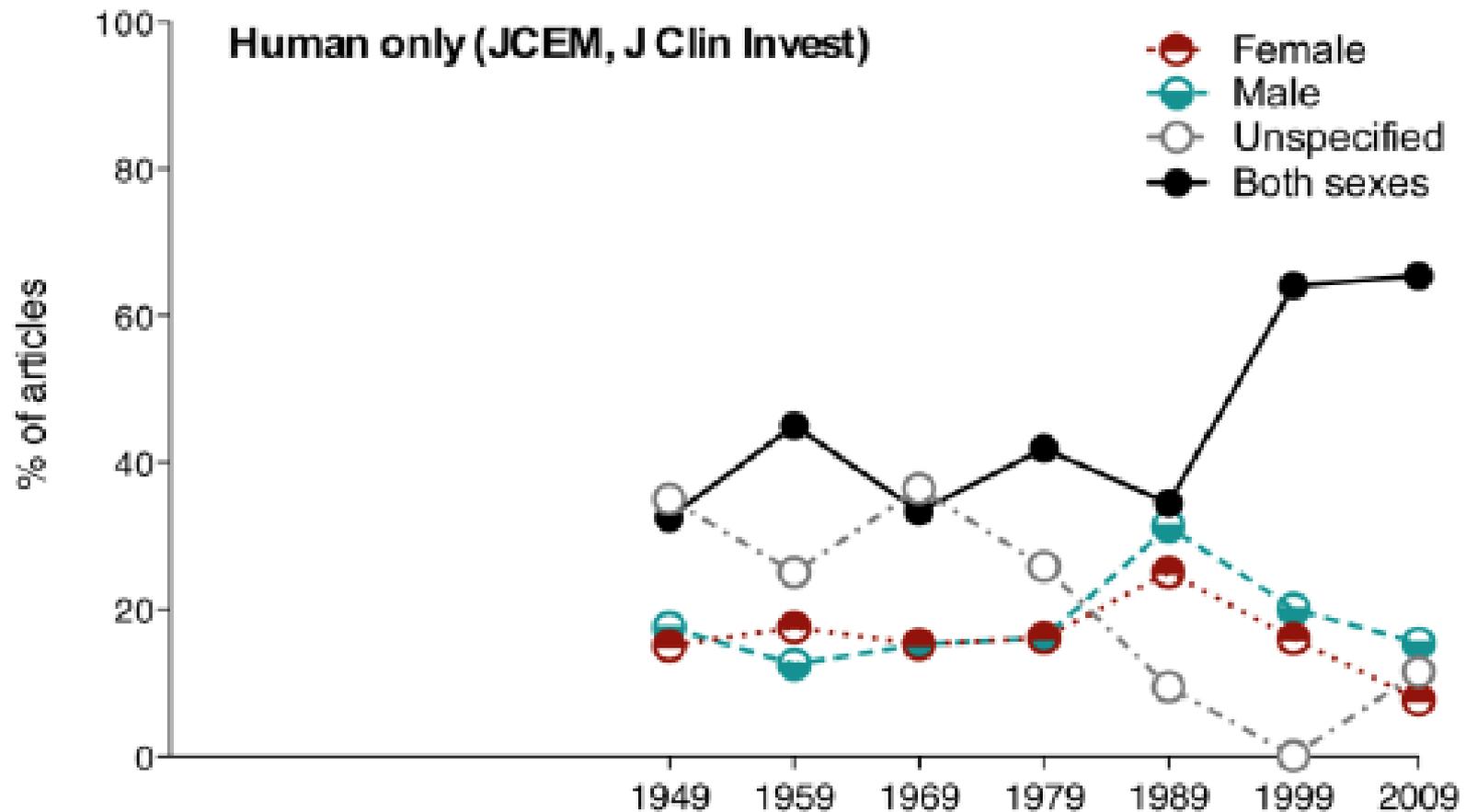
## Single sex studies still predominate the research literature



# Males still dominate animal studies



# ..and human studies



*Review Article*

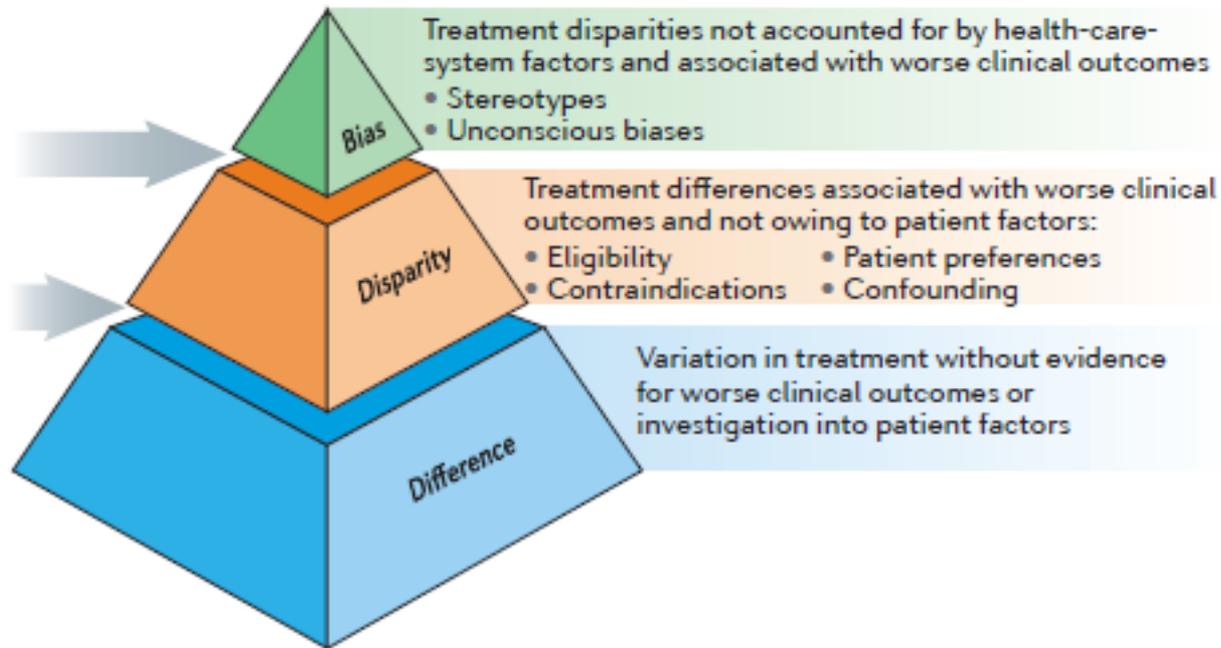
**Sex and Gender Differences in Central Nervous System-Related Disorders**

**Emanuela Zagni,<sup>1</sup> Lucia Simoni,<sup>2</sup> and Delia Colombo<sup>1</sup>**

Recommendations are

- the inclusion of both sexes in basic CNS science and RCT;
- the exploration of sex difference as a part of the standard preclinical evaluation of therapeutics;
- the implementation of research examining sex-specific risk factors
- the definition and use of relevant sex-specific outcome measures and therapeutic strategies.

# Overcoming bias, disparity and differences..



# Future directions : Gender Medicine

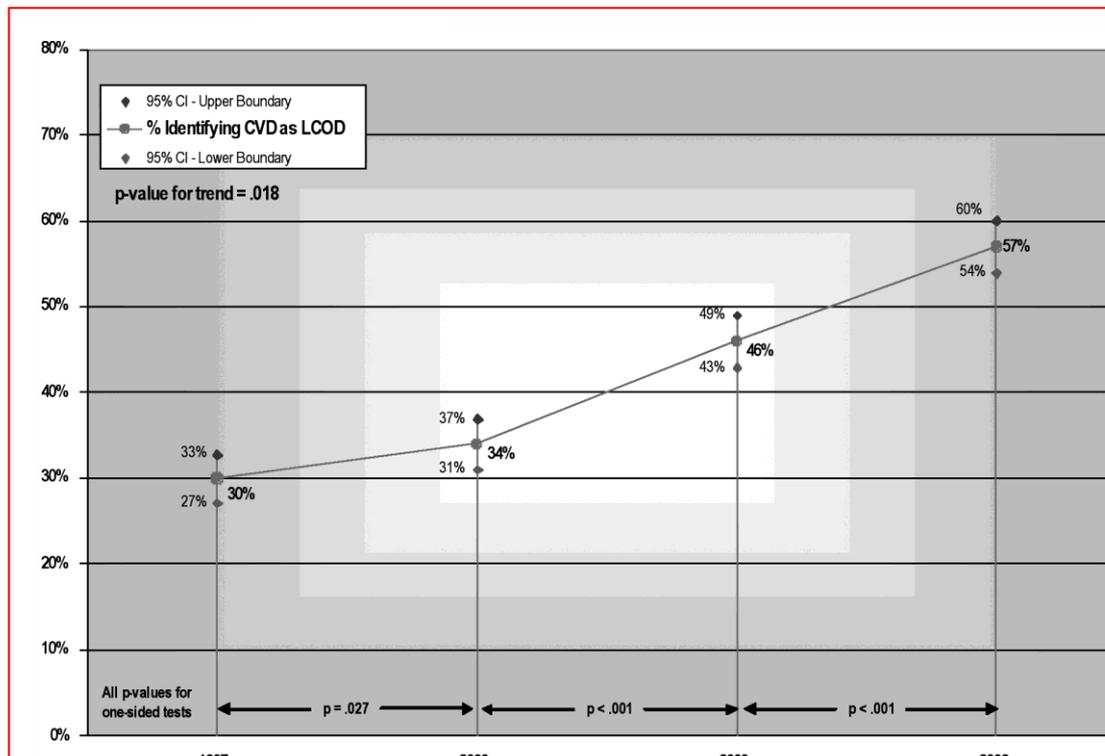
Gender-specific medicine aims at:

- understanding how different clinical signs, diagnostic procedures and therapeutic needs are in men and women
- developing sex tailored diagnostic and therapeutic approach
- establishing a close cooperation between research centres, universities and public institution to promote a 'new style of doing research' and to improve public awareness of women's health

## Nine-Year Trends and Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Women's Awareness of Heart Disease and Stroke: An American Heart Association National Study

ALLISON H. CHRISTIAN, Ed.D.,<sup>1</sup> WAYNE ROSAMOND, Ph.D.,<sup>2</sup>  
ANTHONY R. WHITE, Ph.D.,<sup>3</sup> and LORI MOSCA, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>

1,005 women (71% white, non-Hispanic, 12% black, non-Hispanic, 12% Hispanic, and 6% other ethnicities).



Trends in CVD as perceived leading cause of death

*J of Women's Health 2007*

## National Study of Physician Awareness and Adherence to Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Guidelines

**TABLE 8. Physician's Agreement With Statements About CVD Prevention and Guidelines\***

	Physician Specialty		
	PCP (A) (n=300)	OBGyn (B) (n=100)	CARD (C) (n=100)
More women than men die each year of CVD.	8.3 <sup>C</sup>	13.0	17.0 <sup>A</sup>
I am willing to seek additional training that will allow me to better engage in preventive health treatments for CVD in women.	28.0 <sup>B</sup>	43.0 <sup>AC</sup>	25.0 <sup>B</sup>

A striking finding in our study was a very low level of recognition (8% PCPs, 13% OBGyns, and 17% CARDs) that heart disease kills more women every year than men. According to AHA statistics, nearly 500 000 women die of CVD each year, exceeding the number of men. These physician data underscore the need for awareness campaigns about women and heart disease among healthcare providers, especially because awareness of risk is a critical first step in taking action to reduce it.

