



GENDER PHARMACOLOGY: PUBLIC RESEARCH AND CLINICAL SETTINGS

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The pathogenetic mechanisms of human diseases are often gender-associated. The onset, progression and clinical outcome of several human morbidity states have actually been analyzed in details in both laboratory and clinical studies. However, the main goal of these studies was to point out the pathogenetic mechanisms as well as the clinical settings of different human diseases without considering the important “variable” represented by gender. More recently, the interest of physicians of the national health system has been attracted by the possible implications of gender differences, not only in terms of clinical management of hospitalized patients, but also in the assessment of more appropriate therapeutic approaches. Among these, the search for specific pharmacological protocols aimed to improve side effects, toxicity and, importantly, to lower the costs, has been taken into account. Finally, on the basis of the hypothesized role of gender in infectious and non-infectious diseases, including AIDS and cardiovascular or degenerative diseases respectively, the development of innovative and appropriate therapeutic strategies should become a clear-cut objective of public health system in the near future.