

Gender analysis on COVID-19 data in Piemonte: the virus prefers men.

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Several important gender differences in clinical manifestation and response to treatments for many diseases are known since a long time, although they continue to be underestimated. Recent Covid-19 pandemic has provided further evidence of the importance of gender-based approach. Many fields of study, such as medicine, law, psychology, sociology, as well as sciences applied to data analysis, highlighted the importance of a gender perspective in studying Covid-19 pandemic effects, and the actions to contain it. Gender factor is strongly present in this health crisis: Covid-19 mainly affects men, with a worse symptomatology and a general disease exacerbation. Aim of the work was to analyze data on Covid-19 testing in Piedmont region, northwest of Italy, from people admitted to Amedeo di Savoia hospital, regional referral center for infectious diseases. Data are referred to a period of two months (March-April 2020), i.e. the beginning of pandemic.

We performed analysis on 38018 testing records: 77.99% was suitable (N = 29653) and 22.01% (N = 8365) not evaluable. Among suitable sample, N = 21466 was negative for Covid-19 testing (about 72.3%) and N = 8187 was positive (about 27.7%). Of suitable sample, N = 26361 was attributable to unique subjects; on this number we performed disaggregation by sex: 10651 were males (about 41%) and 15710 females (about 59%). Median age for males was 57 (range 0-101); median age for females 54 (range 0-111). At the symposium we will show analyses on the suitable sample concerning regional distribution of data, recurrence of Covid-19 testing in the same person and correlation of testing with hospital admission motivation.

Gender approach should be recognized as part of the medical knowledge: a gender-based approach to clinical practice also in the context of this pandemic seems to be mandatory for patients and for the sustainability of the National Health System.