

# Clinical research doesn't do enough to study sex and gender differences

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Potential gender differences in clinical management are under-researched. A systematic analysis of the incorporation of sex and gender into research design, published in the open access journal *BMC Medicine*, has found that, although there has been a progressive improvement since the 90s, there exists a striking under-representation of research about gender differences in patient management.

Sabine Oertelt-Prigione, from the Institute of Gender in Medicine, Berlin, worked with a team of researchers to study almost 9000 research articles, looking for evidence of sex and gender-specific design and analysis. She said, "Research on clinical management, that is- diagnostic approaches, referral practices, invasive and non-invasive therapy choices- is essential in understanding, shaping and improving our everyday clinical practice. Lack of knowledge about [gender differences](#) and inadequacies in health care provision have led to significant and potentially fatal imbalances in outcomes".

Oertelt-Prigione and her colleagues found that there has been an increase in sex and gender-specific analysis over time, with publications markedly rising since the 1990s. Speaking about the results, Oertelt-Prigione said, "Despite the progressive increase in the literature, the gap in the area of [clinical management](#) needs to be addressed and possibly closed in the future".

**More information:** Analysis of sex and gender-specific research reveals a common increase in publications and marked differences

between disciplines, Sabine Oertelt-Prigione, Roza Parol, Stephan Krohn, Robert Preißner and Vera Regitz-Zagrosek, *BMC Medicine* (in press), [www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/](http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/)

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