

# LA SALUTE DI GENERE IN TOSCANA

Presentazione del nuovo Documento ARS

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## Tematiche al femminile

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UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI  
DI SASSARI



CENTRO INTERDISCIPLINARE  
PER LO SVILUPPO  
RICERCA BIOTECNOLOGICA  
E STUDIO BIODIVERSITA'

I° Seminario  
di approfondimento

# Le donne ed i farmaci



SOCIETA'  
ITALIANA DI  
FARMACOLOGIA



FARMINDUSTRIA

Delibera di Giunta regionale n. 144 del  
24.02.2014.

2021 Special Commission Equity in Health

2023 Global Gender Medicine Board



6-7 Ottobre 2004



A.D. MDLXII  
UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI SASSARI



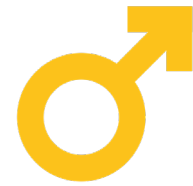
FONDAZIONE  
INTERNAZIONALE  
MENARINI

**Genes, Drugs and Gender**

Sassari (Italy), October 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009



Il premio **Nobel Louis J Ignarro** prende il caffè  
prima della conferenza magistrale tenuta  
nell'aula magna dell'Università di Sassari al  
convegno "Genes, drugs and gender"



Data gap  
Physicians training aims at male bodies  
Therapy not optimized  
Less prevention  
Stress  
Patient-doctor communication is based on male structures

More cancer  
Men have less cancer suppressor genes  
More severe infection  
More addiction

# Clinical Trials

The number of women enroll in phase 3 is increased but **women are still underrepresented in Phase I trials** [Cheng A et al J Women's Health 27:418,2018]. Women's representation remains low in phase 1 clinical trials ( $\approx 22\%$ ).

Phase	N. Drugs	Women	%	Unknown gender (%)
1	9	788/3600	22	18
2	9	3477/7268	48	12
1+2	29	3034/11881	25	31
3	38	71049/145296	49	7
Totali	38	78 338/168 045	47	9

Modified by Labots G et al Br Clin Pharm J 84: 700; 2018

Beyond the reproductive apparatus, male and female morphology, biochemistry, physiology, diseases, response to treatments are different.



Actually, for example, they are treated with drugs mainly studied in males receiving the same dose of drugs

To become visible it is necessary to adopt:

## SEX - GENDER BASED APPROACHES

**But**

76% or not reported



80% or not reported



67% or not reported in RCT



51% of general population



Females are invisible

## SPECIFIC WOMEN ASPECTS

- Menstrual cycle (it can varies the drug metabolism)
- The presence of critical periods (pregnancy, puerperium, menopausa ecc.)
- Oral anticonceptionals use
- HRT use

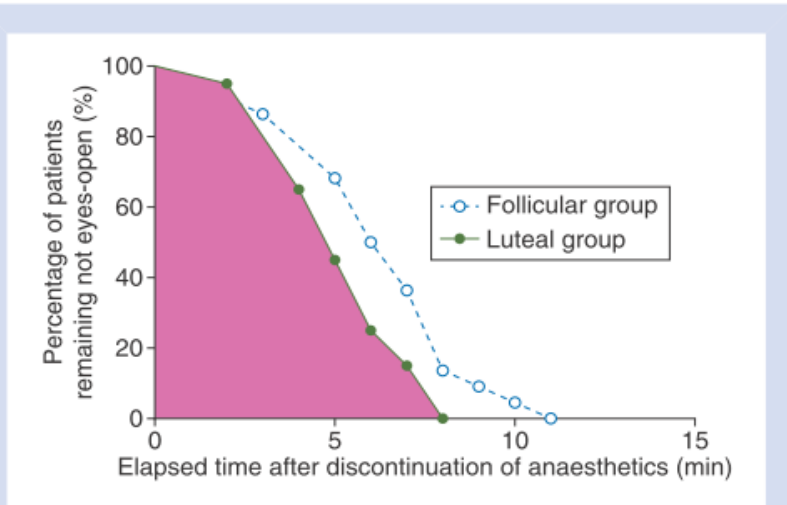
# Sexual endogenous hormones affect PD

In women, the PK is influenced by changes in the hormonal environment, which occur during the menstrual cycle, pregnancy, menopause, hormonal treatments (such as OC, HRT) drugs, which influence hormonal status [Franconi et al Cells 8, 476, 2019].

## Some examples

During ovulation and premenstrually, alcohol blood concentration is higher than in other menstrual phase [Paton A *BMJ* 330:85, 2005]

In premenstrual phase, the dose of antipsychotics might need to be raised [Lange B et al *Expert Opin. Pharmacother.* 18, 351, 2017].



**Fig 3** Cumulative percentages of patients remaining unconscious after discontinuation of propofol and remifentanyl infusion in the follicular group (unfilled circle and dotted line, empty area) and in the luteal group (filled circle and solid line, shaded area), obtained using the Kaplan–Meier survival analysis. Log-rank differences between the two groups were significant ( $P < 0.01$ ).

In the luteal phase, nausea and vomiting are lower than in the follicular phase [Fu F et al *Brit J Anaesth* 112: 506, 2014].



## Physiological changes during pregnancy: effects on drug disposition

Parameter	Consequences
Delayed gastric emptying and increased gastric pH	Altered drug bioavailability and delayed time to peak levels after oral administration
Increased cardiac output	Increased hepatic blood flow; increased elimination for some drugs
Increased total body water, extracellular fluid	Altered drug disposition; increased $V_d$ for hydrophilic drugs
Increased fat compartment	Decreased elimination of lipid-soluble drugs; increased $V_d$ for hydrophobic drugs
Increased renal blood flow and glomerular filtration rate	Increased renal clearance
Decreased plasma albumin concentration	Increased free fraction of drug
Altered CYP450 and UGT activity	Altered oral bioavailability and hepatic elimination

UGT, uridine diphosphate glucuronosyltransferase;  $V_d$ , volume of distribution.

doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1002160.t001

Enzyme	Effect of Pregnancy [Reference]	Substrate Examples
CYP1A2	Decreased [18]	Paracetamol, propranolol, theophylline
CYP2B6	Increased [21]	Methadone, efavirenz, sertraline
CYP2C8	Increased [22]	Verapamil, fluvastatin
CYP2C9	Increased [23,24]	Glyburide, phenytoin
CYP2C19	Decreased [23,25]	Proguanil, indomethacin, citalopram, escitalopram
CYP2D6	Increased [17]	Alprenolol, codeine, fluoxetine
CYP2E1	Increased [26]	Disulfiram, theophylline
CYP3A4	Increased [27]	Darunavir, citalopram
Uridine 5'-diphospho-glucuronosyltransferases	Increased [28]	Lamotrigine, morphine

doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1002160.t002



# Combined oral contraceptives: generators of interactions.

La simultanea somministrazione di un farmaco che induce gli enzimi metabolizzanti gli ormoni aumenta il metabolismo degli ormoni con conseguente:

- *possibile gravidanza indesiderata e sanguinamento irregolare*

La simultanea somministrazione di un farmaco che inibisce gli enzimi metabolizzanti gli ormoni con conseguente:

- *aumento il rischio di trombosi*

Poichè in molti studi clinici nelle donne fertili si fa l'antifecondazione bisogna valutare l'influenza dei contraccettivi e viceversa sulla risposta farmacologica

# Some example of combined oral contraceptives interaction:

Many combined oral contraceptives are mainly metabolized by CYP3A4 (Expert Opin Drug Metab Toxicol. 2022 Jun;18(6):395-411).

- Women taking antiepileptic drugs with strong or moderate metabolic enzyme-inducing properties should avoid any oral contraceptives.
- Women receiving combined hormonal contraceptives may need half of the regularly prescribed daily dosage when using CYP1A2 substrates including clozapine.
- There are no studies exploring the effects of fluoxetine (a moderate inhibitor of CYP2C9 and a weak-to-moderate inhibitor of CYP3A4) or fluvoxamine (a moderate inhibitor of CYP3A4 and CYP2C9) on estrogen metabolism.

## Nonpolar and polar amino acid levels and lipids stratified by sex and OC use

	Men (n = 41)	Women (n = 43)	Women OC (n = 26)
Alanine (μM)	255.8 ± 70.0	263.5 ± 62.5	235.8 ± 69.9
Serine (μM)	202.0 (123.0-503.0)	213.3 (123.4-387.0)	211.4 (57.7-1387.0)
Leucine (μM)	220.0 (118.0-481.0) <sup>a, b</sup>	<b>150.2 (49.5-287.3)</b>	138.7 (44.6-281.0)
Isoleucine (μM)	113.0 (57.0-255.0) <sup>a</sup>	73.9 (46.1-136.0)	78.0 (20.0-523.0) <sup>c</sup>
Methionine (μM)	17.6 (14.8-40.6) <sup>a, b</sup>	<b>15.9 (11.3-23.2)</b>	13.8 (9.6-27.9)
Phenylalanine (μM)	66.3 (49.7-109.3)	54.7 (39.3-146.1)	52.3 (41.1-116.5)
Asparagine (μM)	159 (41.0-259.0) <sup>a, b</sup>	<b>82 (46.2-180.7)</b>	84.5 (18.1-268.0)
Tryptophan (μM)	9.0 (2.0-58.0) <sup>a, b</sup>	53.2 (5.0-87.6)	52.0 (1.0-67.5)
Glycine (μM)	204.80 (159.6-351.8)	237.3 (137.9-384.4)	<b>176.7 (112.3-359.9)<sup>c</sup></b>
Proline (μM)	269.0 (99.0-900.0) <sup>a, b</sup>	216.1 (3.1-566.0)	<b>109.5 (2.9-222.0)<sup>c</sup></b>
Valine (μM)	251.6 (175.5-467.9) <sup>a, b</sup>	205.0 (171.6-320.7)	208.5 (145.8-313.5)
Tyrosine (μM)	79.5 ± 20.5 <sup>a, b</sup>	<b>71.9 ± 14.3</b>	63.5 ± 18.9
Cysteine (μM)	5.0 (3.0-15.0)	11.2 (2.0-399.0)	10.0 (2.0-17.6)

	Men (n = 41)	Women (n = 43)	Women OC (n = 26)
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	173.5±29.5	184.8±30.4	222.8±41.5
LDL (mg/dl)	103.2±28.3	<b>108.9±22.8</b>	<b>125.8±31.3</b>
HDL (mg/dl)	47.0±9.5	<b>60.8±11.0</b>	<b>73.6±13.7</b>
TG (mg/dl)	68.0 (30.0-155.0)	<b>60.0 (32.0-160.0)</b>	<b>87.0 (48.0-526.0)</b>

Ruoppolo M et al Am J Trans Res et al 6,614, 2014

**Thank you**

**Grazie**

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**Thank you**



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