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**GENDER PORTRAIT OF THE COVID-19 INFECTION: ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM**

Background. The coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) is a highly transmittable and pathogenic viral infection, which caused global pandemic that led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide. The SARS-CoV-2 virus is the cause of COVID-19 infection. Currently, the scientific literature discusses gender differences in the occurrence of various diseases, which became the basis for the formation of gender approaches to treatment.

The purpose is to analyse the literature data, official statistics and identify the gender characteristics of the COVID-19 infection.

Materials and methods. The authors analyzed the articles for the last year in the PubMed database about the gender characteristics of the COVID-19 infection. It was selected the articles relevant to a general medicine readership, prioritizing randomized clinical trials and systematic reviews.

Results. First Chinese reporting indicated gender disequilibrium in observed cases and the COVID-19 fatality. Data as received by the Worlds Health Organization, as of the first week of April 2021 showed over 135 million cases worldwide and of which almost every age group in all countries of the world the relative risk of death from COVID-19 was greater for men than for women. In most countries, sex variations rose to 60 to 69 years of age, but subsequently declined at 80+ for the smallest sex gap. Data from the COVID-19 associated hospitalization in Switzerland and France indicated that, while the prevalence of COVID-19 did not show gender sensitivity, there were 50% more male patients than female patients hospitalized. In Switzerland, COVID-19 was comparable across age ranges in males and females but hospitalization for male patients was 1.5 times higher. In addition, the composite COVID-19 results, consisting of 14,364 deaths from Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland, constantly showed that the fatality rates in males were higher than in females in all age groups. The identified gender characteristics of the COVID-19 infection are due to many factors.

The prevalence of the COVID-19 infection development in men compared with women is due to the features of angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) expression which plays one of the main roles in the pathogenesis of this disease. Furthermore, a well-known fact of this gender difference in the manifestation of the COVID-19 infection could be due to that the female gender has a greater immune response than the male gender. This is because of the cellmediated and humoral immune responses in females are stronger.

Taking into account some behavioral actions which are the risk factors of the COVID-19 (smoking) shows that more men smoke than women. Studies showed that smoking is linked to an elevated risk of the COVID-19 infection. 33 The fact that males are more likely to jettison precaution than females may involve be another reason. Also, health guidelines postulated by health bodies, more women seem to respond than men.

Conclusion. The COVID-19 pandemic is the global health crisis of our time in all countries of the world. A characteristic gender feature of the COVID-19 infection is its frequent development in men compared with women.