Sex (referring to the strict biological sense) and gender (referring to the sociocultural dimension) are major determinants of health and disease. This review examines similarities and differences between the sexes in the prevalence of osteoporosis and fractures, bone- and fall-related risk factors for incident fractures, and the possibilities of fracture prevention, as well as gender differences in the perception of osteoporosis. In general, osteoporosis is underdiagnosed and undertreated in women but even more so in men, and is related to limits in the patient's and the physician's awareness at all clinical stages, from case finding to compliance with and persistence of therapy. Furthermore, the lay perception of a healthy lifestyle, the level of social isolation, networking within the health care system, and opportunities for screening appear to contribute to gender differences in participating in osteoporosis prevention and t
herapy. These aspects of health care deserve further attention and research.

**Keywords:** etiology, fracture risk, gender, osteoporosis, risk of falls

**Free Comments:**
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