

## Women are better doctors but get paid less

23rd December, 2016



A new study from Harvard University shows that female doctors are slightly better than their male colleagues, but get paid less.

Researchers looked at more than three million medical records.

Around half of these (1.5 million) were hospitalizations, and the other half were for readmissions (people who had to stay in hospital a second time). The percentage of hospital patients who had to return to hospital, or who died, was lower if the doctor was female. Mortality rates (the number of people who died) were 15.02 per cent and readmissions rates were 11.07 per cent for female doctors, compared with 15.57 per cent mortality and 11.49 per cent readmission rates for patients of male doctors.

The researchers did not give a reason why women provided better care to patients than men. However, researcher Dr. Ashish Jha did give a figure for the number of lives that could be saved in the USA if male doctors performed as well as female doctors. Dr Jha said: "We estimate that approximately 32,000 fewer patients would die if male physicians could achieve the same [results] as female physicians every year." He also said that it was wrong that men got paid more than women, especially because women were better at their jobs. Dr Jha added: "We need to understand why these differences exist...and figure out how to translate it to the [wider] population of physicians."

Sources: *HuffingtonPost.* / *ScientificAmerican* / *LiveScience*

## Writing

Women are better at doing their jobs than men are. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

study / slightly / paid / million / medical / records / mortality / female / patients / researchers / reason / care / figure / estimate / approximately / wrong / population

## True / False

- A new study says women are much better doctors than men. T / F
- Researchers looked at over 3,000,000 medical records. T / F
- Mortality rates were higher for the patients of female doctors. T / F
- Readmission rates were lowest for patients of male doctors. T / F
- Researchers explained why women were better doctors. T / F
- If men worked as well as female doctors, 36,000 fewer people would die. T / F
- A researcher said it was not OK for male doctors to get paid more. T / F
- The researcher said we needed to understand why there were differences. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>study</b>       | a. passed away  |
| 2. <b>slightly</b>    | b. did          |
| 3. <b>return</b>      | c. death        |
| 4. <b>died</b>        | d. cause        |
| 5. <b>mortality</b>   | e. a little     |
| 6. <b>reason</b>      | f. particularly |
| 7. <b>provided</b>    | g. report       |
| 8. <b>performed</b>   | h. understand   |
| 9. <b>especially</b>  | i. gave         |
| 10. <b>figure out</b> | j. go back      |

## Discussion – Student A

- Are men or women better doctors?
- Why do male doctors get paid more?
- Are women better than men at all jobs?
- Why do people become doctors?
- How do you think female doctors feel about this research?
- Should doctors get paid on their results?
- What advice do you have for female doctors?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. female doctors are slightly        | a. was female       |
| 2. their male                         | b. of male doctors  |
| 3. people who had to stay in hospital | c. got paid more    |
| 4. lower if the doctor                | d. colleagues       |
| 5. readmission rates for patients     | e. care to patients |
| 6. The researchers did not give a     | f. a second time    |
| 7. women provided better              | g. exist            |
| 8. the number of lives that could     | h. better           |
| 9. it was wrong that men              | i. be saved         |
| 10. understand why these differences  | j. reason why       |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of doctors?
- Do you prefer male or female doctors? Why?
- What do you think about what you read?
- Why might female doctors be better than male doctors?
- What might male doctors think about this research?
- Will you ask for a female doctor next time you go to hospital?
- Do you have a good or bad experience with doctors?
- What kind of life does a doctor have?

## Spelling

- better than their male ulgsoecael
- three million mealidc records
- The enptegrcae of hospital...
- if the doctor was efmela
- merpadoc with 15.57 per cent mortality
- tisptena of male doctors
- researchers did not give a nsoera why
- women dirvepod better care
- give a greufi for the number
- We eimatets that approximately 32,000 fewer...
- yelpelisca because women were better
- understand why these differences etxsi

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. a	5. c
6. d	7. i	8. b	9. f	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – A Country's President

You think a woman would be best at the job of a country's president. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they wouldn't be good at their jobs. Also, tell the others which of these jobs a woman would be worst at (and why): a chef, a teacher or a doctor.

### Role B – Chef

You think a woman would be best at the job of a chef. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they wouldn't be good at their jobs. Also, tell the others which of these jobs a woman would be worst at (and why): a country's president, a teacher or a doctor.

### Role C – Teacher

You think a woman would be best at the job of a teacher. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they wouldn't be good at their jobs. Also, tell the others which of these jobs a woman would be worst at (and why): a chef, a country's president or a doctor.

### Role D – Doctor

You think a woman would be best at the job of a doctor. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they wouldn't be good at their jobs. Also, tell the others which of these jobs a woman would be worst at (and why): a chef, a teacher or a country's president.

## Speaking – Woman better

Rank these with your partner. Put the jobs in which a woman is better than a man at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| • comedian       | • country's president |
| • police officer | • chef                |
| • teacher        | • doctor              |
| • hair stylist   | • judge               |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.