

speaking manuscript (une version courte et une version longue)

A- Ladies and gentlemen,

My talk today concerns migraine in France. I'd like to comment briefly on two aspects. First of all, the estimated prevalence of migraine in different walks of life, then a comparative study concerning the prevalence in women and men. As can be seen on the left, middle managers rank first with a prevalence of 20%, closely followed by craftsmen and shopkeepers. As many manual workers as farmers suffer from migraine, and the percentage of office workers and upper level managers affected by the condition is the same.

Moving now to the second part of the OH displaying the estimated prevalence of migraine in France in 1989, it is clear that women of all ages are more susceptible to migraine than men. The age group with the highest prevalence in women is the 30 to 39-year-old age group closely followed by the 40 to 49-year-old group. After menopause, women tend to suffer less from migraine. The older they get, the less affected they are by the condition. In the under 19 age group, twice as many women as men suffer from migraine, whereas in the 30 to 79 groups there are three times as many women as men.

Thank you for your attention.

B- Ladies and gentlemen,

The transparency shown here illustrates the estimated prevalence of migraine in France in relation to different walks of life on the left and, on the right, comparative prevalence in French men and women.

Firstly, if we look at the chart on the left, we can see that the prevalence in 20-60 year-old subjects varies between roughly 12% in upper level managers and office workers and 20% in middle managers. The percentage of manual workers suffering from migraine is more or less the same as that of farmers and at 13.5% is slightly higher than the previous two categories.

However, by far the highest prevalence is found among middle managers, craftsmen and shopkeepers who are nearly twice as likely to be migraine victims as office workers and upper level managers. We will consider the possible explanations for these disparities later in my presentation.

Now let's turn to the difference in prevalence between French men and women. The vertical axis represents the percentage of sufferers, the horizontal axis the age groups which range from up to 19 years of age to over 80. The most striking feature here is the much higher percentage of women sufferers than men in every age group. At least twice as many women as men are migraine victims in all cases. Moreover you can see that between the ages of 30 and 49, there is a threefold difference in prevalence.

If we look more closely at the prevalence according to age, it can be seen that, whereas the percentage of men sufferers remains roughly stable at around 6% until the age of 59, that of women fluctuates between 10 and 26%. The peak age for female migraine victims is between 30-39 which is 2.5 times higher than it is before the age of 19.

The high prevalence in females begins to fall slightly between 40-49, more substantially between 50 to 59, but women have to wait until their sixties for a more dramatic drop from 19 to 7%. Men also benefit from this same pattern of reduction. Thus, over the age of 60 there are half as many migraine victims in both males and females, and the respective percentages of sufferers then remain stable. Nevertheless, women are still more than twice as likely to have migraine as men even in their declining years.

So to conclude, ladies and gentlemen, we can see that there is no equality of the sexes as regards this condition. Why is it that considerably fewer men have migraine than women? I believe one of my colleagues is going to try and explain this "gender gap" later in the meeting.

Thank you for your attention.