

## PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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### ARTICLE DETAILS

<b>TITLE (PROVISIONAL)</b>	The paradox of self-care gender differences amongst Italian patients with Chronic Heart Failure: Findings from a real-world cross-sectional study
<b>AUTHORS</b>	Dellafiore, Federica; Arrigoni, Cristina; Pittella, Francesco; Conte, Gianluca; Magon, Arianna; Caruso, Rosario

### VERSION 1 – REVIEW

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Thomas Müller-Tasch Dept. of Psychosomatic Medicine und Psychotherapy, Klinikum am Weissenhof, Germany
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	20-Feb-2018

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	<p>The article sheds light on an important topic. Some revisions should be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Main results should be presented at the beginning of the Discussion section in clear words.</li><li>- In the Discussion section, two important Topics should be discussed:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the potential role of comorbid mental disorders (depression, anxiety), as they are frequent, frequently not assessed (as in this article?), and they can influence patient self-care</li><li>2. the potential phenomenon of self-delusion with regard to self-care. Men might have a greater tendency to predict self-care knowledge, which they actually do not have. This should be discussed.</li></ol></li><li>- The article needs proof-reading by a native speaker.</li></ul>
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<b>REVIEWER</b>	Jocelyn Chew Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	18-Apr-2018

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	<p>Interesting phenomenon explored. However, attention may be needed to the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. in page 5 line 12-16, it was mentioned that we know there are diverse results in gender differences in terms of self-care but on the same page line 29-31, it was mentioned that there are no recent studies. It may be useful to do a search again for similar studies.</li><li>2. Proofreading for English is recommended.</li></ol>
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### VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer: 1

Reviewer Name: Thomas Müller-Tasch

Institution and Country: Dept. of Psychosomatic Medicine und Psychotherapy, Klinikum am Weissenhof, Germany

Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': None declared

Please leave your comments for the authors below

The article sheds light on an important topic.

• Thank you for your appreciation

Some revisions should be made:

- Main results should be presented at the beginning of the Discussion section in clear words.

• We completely revised the discussion section in accordance with your suggestion

- In the Discussion section, two important Topics should be discussed:

1. the potential role of comorbid mental disorders (depression, anxiety), as they are frequent, frequently not assessed (as in this article?), and they can influence patient self-care

2. the potential phenomenon of self-delusion with regard to self-care. Men might have a greater tendency to predict self-care knowledge, which they actually do not have. This should be discussed.

• Thank you for the useful observation and addresses. We enriched our discussion following your indications.

- The article needs proof-reading by a native speaker.

• The manuscript received a professional proof-reading

Reviewer: 2

Reviewer Name: Jocelyn Chew

Institution and Country: Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': None declared

Please leave your comments for the authors below

Interesting phenomenon explored.

• Thank you for your appreciation

However, attention may be needed to the following points:

1. in page 5 line 12-16, it was mentioned that we know there are diverse results in gender differences in terms of self-care but on the same page line 29-31, it was mentioned that there are no recent studies. It may be useful to do a search again for similar studies.

• Thank you for your comment. Actually, the main body of evidence related to this topic comes from studies aimed to describe self-care and not to specifically describe the gender differences. Thus the gender differences information have to be detected in sub-groups comparisons and so on. To be as clearest as possible we have modified the ambiguous phrases, stating: So far, the evidence underpinning the understanding of gender differences in patients with chronic HF are still weak, due to the available evidence on this topic are mainly given by secondary results of studies aimed to describe self-care [...]. In this way there are no contradiction with the previous description of self-care performed by females and males.

2. Proofreading for English is recommended.

• The manuscript received a professional proof-reading

## VERSION 2 – REVIEW

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Thomas Müller-Tasch, MD Dept. of Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, Klinikum am Weissenhof, 74189 Weinsberg, Germany
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<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	20-Jun-2018
<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	The article is now well-written and includes important topics that have to be taken into account, like mental comorbidities.