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Poster Session I

Antibiotic consumption data

Antimicrobial use in Kosovo: first results of the WHO/Europe-ESAC Project

L. Raka¹, A. Versporten², A. Jakupi³, V. Uka¹, S. Hajdari¹, B. Sejdiu¹, G. Bolokhovets⁴,
H. Bak Pedersen⁴, H. Goossens²

¹*National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo & Faculty of Medicine, University of Pristina, Pristina, Kosovo*

²*Laboratory of Medical Microbiology Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Institute, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium*

³*Acting Director of Kosovo Medicine Agency, Pristina, Kosovo*

⁴*Health Technologies and Pharmaceuticals Division of Health Systems and Public Health, the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark*

Objectives

There is no reliable data on antimicrobial use in non-European-Union (EU) south-eastern European countries (SEE) and newly independent states (NIS). We aimed to collect valid, representative, comparable total national wholesales data on systemic antimicrobial use in Kosovo^o with an estimated population of 1.798.645(<http://esk.rks.gov.net/rekos2011/repository/docs/ESTIMATION%20of%20Kosovo%20population%202011.pdf>).

Methods

Valid 2011 total antimicrobial use data of Kosovo^o were analysed according to the WHO Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC)/Defined Daily Doses (DDD) methodology and expressed in DDD/1000 inhabitants/day (DID). Wholesales data on antibacterials (ATC group J01) were provided by the Medicinal Agency, covering 100% of the population. Quarterly data was also submitted allowing studying seasonal variation.

Results

Total (outpatients and hospital care) antibacterial use was 26.3 DID. The top 5 antibacterial subgroups (ATC level 3) were: penicillins, ATC group J01C (12.8 DID, 48.7% of all antibacterials); other beta-lactam antibacterials, ATC group J01D (4.9 DID, 18.7%); quinolones, ATC group J01M (3.0 DID, 11.3%); macrolides, lincosamides and streptogramins, ATC group J01F (2.6 DID, 10.0%) and sulfonamides and trimethoprim, ATC group J01E (1.8 DID, 6.7%). The top 5 antibacterials (ATC level 5) were: amoxicillin (6.7 DID, 25.5%); amoxicillin and enzyme inhibitor (co-amoxiclav, 2.8 DID, 10.7%); ciprofloxacin (2.6 DID, 9.7%); cephalexin (1.9 DID, 7.4%) and sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim (1.8 DID, 6.7%). Considerable use of the oral third-generation cephalosporin cefixime (0.6 DID, 2.5%) and piperidic acid (0.3 DID, 1.3%) was reported. Seasonal variation of quinolones was not observed during the winter season. Finally, Kosovo^o reported a low number of different antibiotic substances (n=41).

Conclusion

This is first time that antibiotic use was assessed in Kosovo^o using a standardized and validated method. Typical for Kosovo^o, as also seen in other former Yugoslavian countries, are the use of piperidic acid; and further the high use of oral third-generation cephalosporins. These data will facilitate auditing of antimicrobial use, the evaluation of guidelines, the need to map antimicrobial resistance and the implementation of public health policies to promote its judicious use.

^o(in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999))