

E0026 Knowledge, attitude and practice of community pharmacists towards antibiotic use and resistance in Hungary

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Background: Infections caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria are associated with prolonged hospitalization, increased mortality rate and higher medical costs. Because of the scarcity of novel agents, the conscious use of these drugs is of paramount importance. Community pharmacists have a pivotal role in facilitating the prudent use of antibiotics. The aim of our study was to evaluate the knowledge and attitude of community pharmacists related to antibiotic use and resistance in Hungary.

Materials/methods: A self-administered questionnaire-based study was performed at pharmacies, as well as during postgraduate training courses aiming community pharmacists in Hungary. Data collection has been running since January 2016. Statistical analyses were performed by SPSS Statistics 24.0 software.

Results: The 172 respondents (rejection rate: 53.0%) with an average age of 34.75±11.41 years, were polled 72.1% female. All respondents agreed that the misuse of antibiotics is a critical issue in Hungary. According to 93.6%, antibiotics are medicines of special importance, 87.8% believes that pharmacists enabling non-prescription antibiotic use are a public health concern. 89.0% considered their knowledge on antimicrobial therapy appropriate, while this number was 70.3% in connection with the mechanisms and prevention of infectious diseases, and 66.9% on antibiotic resistance (those dissatisfied predominantly have no specialty; p=0.006). 93.0% agreed that the academic curriculum should focus more on the topics of this area. 75.0% of pharmacists stated that they did not give antibiotics to patients without a medical prescription in the last 12 months. 44.2% stated that the temperament of patients significantly influences their dispensing practice. 45.9% agreed with Hungary's current funding policy on antibiotics.

Conclusions: Community pharmacists are in direct contact with the patients though dispensing and pharmaceutical care, representing the first line of action for the adequate use of antibiotics. A fraction of respondents allows for non-prescription antibiotic use, and needs help in the realization of the importance of antibiotic resistance. Continuous professional development is essential to maintain competence, and consequently, to preserve the efficacy of antibiotics.