

females. 47.6% (n=237) had a degree-level education. Of the total respondents 406 (81.5%) have used drugs without a prescription and 286 (n=57.4%) have self-medicated with antibiotics. There was no statistically significant difference in gender and level of education in antibiotic self-medication. Knowledge regarding antibiotic self-medication was not statistically significant according to the gender. However the level of education had a significant effect on the level of knowledge on antibiotic self-medication. Common reasons for antibiotic self-medication were that they had been prescribed with same medicines when they got similar symptoms in the past 73.43% (n=210) or a family member had been given the same drugs for previous similar episodes 33.92% (n=97). 8.74% (n=25) have self-medicated from the information obtained from the internet. 30.1% (n=86) teachers used antibiotics without a prescription for common cold, 30.4% (n=87) for fever and 30.8% (n=88) for sore throat. Of 286 teachers who have self-medicated with antibiotics, 53.15% (n=152) stopped taking antibiotics when symptoms resolved. Amoxicillin was the most commonly used antibiotic in self-medication followed by co-amoxiclav and erythromycin.

Conclusions: ASM is a problem and the general public should be educated regarding the hazards of ASM.

USE OF NON-PRESCRIPTION ANALGESICS AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACTORS IN BORALASGAMUWA MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AREA

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Background: Self-medication with analgesics is a health problem. The objective of this study was to assess the non-prescription analgesic usage, factors associated with usage and knowledge regarding analgesics.

Methods: This study was conducted as a descriptive cross sectional in 3 randomly selected Gramaniladhari areas in Boralasgamuwa MOH area. Data was collected using an interviewer administered questionnaire and data were analyzed using SPSS version 20.

Results: Respondent rate was 93.93% (n=403) and 38.2% (n=154) were males. Analgesic use is significantly high among females ($p = 0.029$) and in unmarried people ($p = 0.036$). The unemployed reported a highest use of analgesics compared to retired and employed. Analgesic use decreased with increasing education but drastically increased again at degree level ($p < 0.05$).

One hundred and fifty respondents (37.2%) used analgesics to alleviate pain within the last 4 weeks. From total analgesic users (n=150) 90.6% (n=136) used only one analgesic within last for weeks. Of those 96.3% (n=131) used paracetamol, 1.5% (n=2) aspirin and 1.5% (n=2) diclofenac. One person stated that he used loratadine to alleviate pain. From total analgesic users (n=150), 9.3% (n=14) used two analgesics together. Eight (57.1%) stated that they used paracetamol and chlorpheniramine as analgesics. and others used paracetamol and diclofenac 7.1% (n=1), paracetamol and ibuprofen 14.3% (n=2) paracetamol and mefenamic acid 14.3% (n=2) and paracetamol and paracetamol+codeine phosphate 7.1% (n=1).

From all analgesic users (n=150), 96.7% (n=145) used paracetamol. 70.3% of the respondents obtained paracetamol from a pharmacy. 13.1% (n=19) used paracetamol prophylactically. 49.7% (n=72) paracetamol users stated that paracetamol overdose causes kidney damage and 40% (n=58) knew it causes liver damage. From the total sample only 22.1% (n=89) were aware that it could cause liver damage in overdose.

18.1% (n=62) people indicated paracetamol and panadol as separate drugs and this percentage was 1.2% (n=4) for paracetol. 11.6% (n=8) identified aspirin and disprin as separate drugs. Amoxicillin

which is an antibacterial drug was identified as an analgesic by 3.5% (n=14) of people.

Conclusions: Analgesic self-medication is a problem in the study area and awareness regarding analgesic use needs to be improved.

ANTIBIOTIC SELF-MEDICATION (ASM) AMONG NON-ACADEMIC STAFF MEMBERS OF A SRI LANKAN UNIVERSITY; A DESCRIPTIVE CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

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Background: This study aimed to determine the knowledge, associating factors and utilization patterns of self-medication with antibiotics among non-academic staff members of a Sri Lankan University.

Methods: This study was conducted as a descriptive cross sectional study in a selected university in Sri Lanka among those who were permanently attached to the university as non-academic staff. Consecutive sampling was done. Data were obtained using a self-administered questionnaire. Data were analyzed with SPSS, version-23

Results: Three hundred and twenty participated in the study (response rate - 80%). Of them 61.5% were females and the mean age was 36.8 ± 8.8 years. 40.2% self-medicated with antibiotics at least once during the past 12 months. Out of them 73.6% had used amoxicillin. Common diseases that were treated were common cold (68.2%), sore throat (52.7%) and fever (31.0). Common reasons for antibiotic self medication were that they had been prescribed with same medicines when they got similar symptoms in the past (78.2%), considering as a minor illness (43.4%) and to get a quick relief (40.3%). 78.3% had self medicated on their own and 92.2% had got them from a community pharmacy. 87.6% had stopped taking the antibiotics when their symptoms disappeared. 64.0% kept the leftover antibiotics at home for future usage. 91.3% consulted a doctor if the symptoms didn't resolve after taking the antibiotic for few days. 43.4% got more than 60 marks in the questionnaire used to assess their knowledge on antibiotics.

Conclusions: ASM is high among the sample we tested. They had inappropriate and harmful practices. ASM is a problem and the general public should be educated regarding the hazards of ASM.

PRECLINICAL SCREENING OF COUMARIN AND 2H-CHROMENE SUBSTITUTED HYDRAZIDE-HYDRAZONE DERIVATIVES, AS POTENTIAL ANTICONVULSANTS

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Background: Epilepsy is one of the most prevalent neurological diseases. Despite the high number of antiepileptic drugs (AED) available for usage, one third of patients still remain pharmacoresistant. The aim of our study was to undertake a screening of coumarin and chromene derivatives as potentially new anticonvulsant.

Methods: Series of coumarin and 2H-chromene substituted hydrazide-hydrazone derivatives were synthesized and tested with application of maximal electroshock (MES), subcutaneous pentyl-enetetrazol (scPTZ), rotarod and 6Hz "psychomotor" seizure tests in ICR mice. Time to peak effect (TPE), median effective (ED50) and toxic (rotarodTD50) doses and protective index (PI) as rotarodTD50/ED50 were evaluated with probit analysis.