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Conclusions: The crude extracts of seaweed of *L. natalansis* demonstrate antibacterial activity against the tested human pathogenic bacteria due to presence of arbutin, anthraquinone glycoside and alkaloid class compounds and can be used as a potential candidate to produce antibiotics in future.

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Assessing the appropriateness of medicines among elderly using the 'Modified STOPP/START criteria' for Sri Lanka

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Background: 'Screening tool of older people's prescriptions (STOPP) and screening tool to alert to right treatment (START)' criteria is a tool which is widely used to assess the appropriateness of medicines among elderly in the West. STOPP criteria identifies inappropriate medicines which should be stopped and are termed potentially inappropriate medicines (PIMs). START criteria identifies omitted medicines which needs to be started and are termed potential prescription omissions (PPOs). Previously we experienced practical issues when using this tool in Sri Lanka, and hence was modified using a Delphi consensus methodology.

Objectives: This study aims to identify inappropriate use of medicines among elderly in two selected cohorts of Sri Lanka using the 'modified STOPP/START criteria' for Sri Lanka.

Method: A multicentre study was conducted. Patients aged ≥ 60 years attending medical and psychiatry clinics at two teaching hospitals were selected through systematic random sampling. Medical/medication related information of patients was obtained through interview and review of medication records. Medical/medication related information of each patient was matched with 70 STOPP and 35 START criteria to identify PIMs and PPOs respectively.

Results: A total of 702 prescriptions were screened using the modified tool (Study hospital 1(SH1)=402; Study hospital 2(SH2)=300). Mean age of patients was 67 ± 5.8 (SH1) and 68.5 ± 5.5 (SH2), and 56.2%(SH1) and 62% (SH2) were females. There were 209 and 84 potentially inappropriate prescriptions in SHI and SH2 respectively, which included 114 PIMs and 95 PPOs in SHI and 32 PIMs and 52 PPOs in SH2. Unavailability of the estimated glomerular filtration rate (or creatinine clearance) was identified as a practical issue when using the modified tool.

Conclusion: Inappropriate use of medicines among the elderly was identified using the 'Modified STOPP/START criteria for Sri Lanka'. Application of this tool in routine practice will help to improve medication safety among this group.