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Factors associated with attitude and practices towards antibiotic use and antimicrobial resistance among outpatient department patients in General hospital, Kalutara

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Background: Antimicrobial resistance is one of the foremost vital threats to global health, and the emergence of multidrug-resistant bacteria are increasing at an alarming rate worldwide and Sri Lanka.

Objective: The purpose of this study is to assess factors that affected attitude and practice towards antibiotic use and antimicrobial resistance among Outpatient Department patients (OPD) at General hospital, Kalutara.

Method: A cross-sectional design was employed in this study. Data was collected through a self-administered questionnaire among a systematic random sampling of 382 patients. The questionnaire was adapted from valid surveys and was translated into Sinhala and back-translated to English for accuracy. The questionnaire was pre-tested with 20 OPD patients. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Ethics Review Committee, Post Graduate Institute of Sciences, University of Peradeniya. The data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 22.0 version. Spearman correlation, Kruskal Wallis test and Mann Whitney U tests were used to analyze data.

Results: There were 120 males and 262 females (response rate = 100%), ranging from 18 -79 years. The mean age of the sample was 43.7±15.5 years. Health workers were found to have significantly higher scores in attitudes compared to non-health workers (p=0.01). There were significant differences among attitudes of participants in different healthcare working levels (Mann Whitney U=7228, p=0.01), and different personal health statuses (Kruskal Wallis test=9.9, p=0.01). Individuals who had a weak health status were found to have significantly higher score in attitudes (p=0.01). Age was positively and significantly correlated with practices (Spearman’s rho=0.18, p=0.00).

Conclusion: Age was the only factor affected for practice and personal health status and health care working level were affected for the attitude of the OPD patients towards antibiotic use and antimicrobial resistance.