**Title: Patient Awareness on use of Antibiotics in Treatment of Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URI)-A Study**

Fathima Al-Haddad, Marwah Nowis, Norah Al-Omran, Howrah Khluteet.

**Abstract:**

Overuse of Antibiotics in the treatment of Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URI's) has been a global concern for long now as it has significantly contributed to the development of drug resistance. Inappropriate prescribing of antibiotics and patient preference, particularly as seen with macrolide antibiotics has led to the development of community acquired antibiotic-resistant infections like the Macrolide resistant *S.Pneumonia* bacteremia.

The present study aims at evaluating the patient for his awareness towards the cause of URI, his level of awareness about drug resistance and level of compliance to previously prescribed antibiotic therapy. A questionnaire consisting of 20 closed-ended questions was adopted in a random sample population of 399 subjects representing the population of KSA. Data collected was represented using descriptive statistic and further analysed using Chi-Square test wherever applicable. The kendalls Tau-b correlation co-efficient was calculated to check for strength of co-relation between the variables if any. These statistical analysis were carried out using SAS version 9.0.

It was seen from the study that the variables in the study were independent of each other since values of kendalls tau-b were approaching towards zero.Only 18.8% of the patient population was aware about drug resisitance and a mere 24.3% were compliant to prescribed therapy.However an encouraging 83.7% were found to be forthcoming towards being wise-users of antibiotics in future. About 78.2% were aware that infections could be caused by either bacteria or virus, yet they believed that antibiotics could make them feel better. Further the chi square test for significance (p‹0.05) showed that responses were independent of the study variables.

 It was concluded from the study that Patient education on wise use of antibiotics and patient compliance are critical to control the overwhelming threat of antibiotic resistance arising in patients treated for URI. Educational brochures and posters have been designed by the investigators to facilitate their next course of action.

**Keywords**: Antibiotic Resistance, Patient Compliance, Patient Education Chi-square test, Upper Respiratory Tract Infections