

21st Scientific Symposium of the Austrian Pharmacological Society:
Joint Meeting with the British Pharmacological Society and the
Pharmacological Societies of Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia
Graz, 16–18 September 2015

MEETING ABSTRACT

A8.1

**Treatment of respiratory tract infections in primary practice:
common mistakes in Health Centre Novi Sad**

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Background: Controlled, rational use of antimicrobial drugs is, for now, the most effective way to maintain the level of antibiotic resistance at an acceptable level while providing optimal patient care. Inappropriate prescribing of antibacterial drugs in primary practice is commonly associated with treatment of respiratory tract infections. The aim of research was to analyse treatment of respiratory tract infections in primary practice in Health Centre Novi Sad.

Methods: The research was designed as a cross sectional study. Data were collected from medical records for a period of 12 months (01.07.2013 – 30.06.2014) in Health Center Novi Sad. Data on medical diagnosis, chosen treatment and sensitivity of isolated bacteria (if applicable) were collected.

Results: During the observed period approximately 190,000 prescriptions were issued. The most common diseases treated were sore throat, acute bronchitis, common cold, sinusitis, otitis etc. Except for common cold (35%) and acute bronchitis (65%), approximately 75% of patients with respiratory tract infections were prescribed antibacterial drugs. In most of the cases prescribing was empirical, without isolation of bacteria.

Discussion: The most common mistakes in treatment of respiratory tract infections in Health Centre Novi Sad were: (i) antibacterial treatment of infections with predominantly viral aetiology (common cold, acute bronchitis), (ii) empirical antibacterial treatment in conditions with possible viral aetiology (sore throat), (iii) empirical treatment in conditions with possible bacterial aetiology without isolation of bacteria and determination of sensitivity to antibacterial drugs, (iv) low prescribing of narrow-spectrum antibacterial drugs such as natural penicillins.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Development of the Republic of Serbia (grant no. III41012).

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