

## **Dispensing of Antibiotics from Local Pharmacies of Karachi**

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**Background & Objective:** Antibiotics are widely used for the treatment of various infections but their irrational use can promote the development of resistance. It is necessary that the consumers should be counselled about antibiotic use by professionals at the time of dispensing. This study was conducted to identify the presence of pharmacists and patient counselling at pharmacies in Karachi, Pakistan.

**Introduction:** One of the important constituent of pharmacy practice is the dispensing of medicinal agents and its complexity has increased due to rapid rise of increased responsibilities towards patients. The safe and effective use of the drugs is highly dependent upon the pharmacist who plays a pivotal role in the pharmacotherapeutic process. All over the world, the infections are treated with the wide use of antibiotics, which beside curing the infection also lead to the development of antimicrobial resistance. The irrational use of antibiotics is a common practice worldwide. An increasing trend of antimicrobial resistance is associated with the injudicious use of antibiotics.

**Method:** The study was conducted by distributing the questionnaires in pharmacies (n=71) situated in different districts (South, East, West, Central and Malir) of Karachi. The data collection process was carried out from January 2016 to December 2016. The data obtained from the pharmacies was statistically analysed by using SPSS, version 23.

**Results:** The table and the figure reveals the frequent monthly dispensing of the antibiotics from different pharmacies of Karachi. This observation is in accordance with a study conducted by Nepal & Bhatia who claimed antibiotics as the frequently sold medicinal agents in the developing countries of the world for the treatment of infections. A very frequent practice of self-medication practiced by the people of Karachi was indicated in this study. The results revealed that in contrast with Ceftriaxone and Moxifloxacin, the amount of Amoxicillin dispensed in different districts of Karachi included in the study is highest. The statistical evaluation of our study also confirms the false perception of considering the antibiotics as the over the counter products due to which the self-medication is frequently practiced.

**Conclusion:** The role of a pharmacist cannot be ignored and there is a need for pharmacists in all the pharmacies situated in the city of Karachi. The presence of these pharmacists would assure the appropriate and rational use of drugs, especially antibiotics, among the people of Karachi. By proper patient counselling and spread of awareness for the hazards associated with the self medication of drugs, specifically antibiotics, the rising trend of antimicrobial resistance could be lowered.