

Evaluation of Self-medication with Antibiotics in Primary Care Clinics in Palestine

Sincere participant

We are "fifth-year students" from Birzeit University's Faculty of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Professions (Dana Joza', Ahlam Awawdeh, Alaa Hasan) working on a scientific project titled (Evaluation of self-treatment with antibiotics in primary care clinics in Palestine) and it aims to evaluate the level of

Self-medication with antibiotics among patients who visited primary care clinics in Palestine

We ask that you respond to all of the questions on a questionnaire (or enable us to interview you and ask you additional questions) regarding the study, knowing that:

- The confidentiality of each respondent's response will be considered, and the findings will only be used for statistical and research purposes without revealing any information about the respondent's personality.
- We confirm that the participant's responses won't be disclosed to the institution to which he or she belongs, and that the information will be handled in strictest confidence with only researchers having access to it.
- We thus confirm that your participation in the study is voluntary and that you will not receive any financial reward for it.
- You have the right to leave this study whenever you like, without having to give a reason. There won't be any consequences for you, and you won't be under any obligation to finish it. We'll also keep your replies' answers private.

The time needed to complete the questionnaire (interview time) is 10 minutes.

Any current researcher is available to answer any queries you may have while you complete the questionnaire.

We appreciate you accepting to participate in this study.

Disagree

I agree

Part A : Background

D1. Gender: A. Male B. Female

D2. Age:

- A. Less than 18
- B. 18-30
- C. 31-50
- D. Older than 51

D3. Where do you live?

- A. City
- B. Camp
- C. Village

D4. Where are you from ?

- A. Ramallah
- B. Jerusalem
- C. Hebron
- D. Nablus
- E. Tulkarm
- F. Jenin
- G. Qalqilyah
- H. Toubas

D5. Education:

- A. Less than High School
- B. High School Graduate
- C. Diploma
- D. Bachelors
- E. Masters
- F. Ph.D.

D6. What is your educational background?

- A. Faculty of health profession
- B. Faculty of Science
- C. Faculty of Education& Literature
- D. Other

D7. Are you employed?

- A. Yes , in the medical field
- B. Yes, not in the medical field
- C. No

- D. Retired
- E. Other

D8. Your monthly allowance:

- A. ≤1400 NIS
- B. 1401to 3000 NIS
- C. 3001to 5000 NIS
- D. >5000 NIS

D9. If you have health insurance, what type do you have?

- A. Public
- B. Private
- C. Agency
- D. I don't have health insurance

Part B: Knowledge

K1. Antibiotics are used for Bacterial infections(1)

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I don't know

K2. Antibiotics are used for Viral infections(1)

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I don't know
- D.

K3. Higher doses of antibiotics result in faster recovery(1)

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I don't know

K4. Antibiotics work for all types of infections

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I don't know

K5. Stop using antibiotics when you feel better

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I don't know

K6. Antibiotics can be used for Influenza.

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I don't know

K7. You should not use leftover antibiotic from a previous infection.

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I don't know

K8. When antibiotics are taken for the wrong indication, this will lead to lack of response to antibiotics in future infections.

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I don't know

Part C : Self-medication behaviors

P1. Have you ever taken antibiotics?(1)

- A. Yes
- B. No (*If No ,don't continue answering the rest of this questionnaire*)

P2. Have you ever treated yourself (self-medicated) with antibiotics without a prescription?(1)

- A. Yes
- B. No (*If No ,don't continue answering the rest of this questionnaire*)

P3. How many times did you treat yourself with antibiotics in the past one year?(1)

- A. Once
- B. 2-3 times
- C. > 3 times

P4. What was (were) your reason(s) of self-medication with antibiotics? (*circle more than one if applicable*)

- A. Cost saving
- B. Convenience
- C. Lack of trust in prescribing doctor
- D. Others (specify)_____

P5. For which of the following complaint(s) did you use antibiotics when you took it as self-medication (*Circle more than one if applicable*)(1)

- A. Runny nose
- B. Nasal congestion
- C. Cough
- D. Sore throat
- E. Fever
- F. Aches and pains
- G. Vomiting
- H. Diarrhea
- I. Skin wounds
- J. Others (specify)

P6. How did you know you should take an antibiotic ?(*circle more than one if applicable*)(1)

- A. Recommendation by community pharmacists
- B. Opinion of family members
- C. Opinion of friends
- D. My own experience
- E. Recommendation by people from social media (Facebook, Instagram,...etc)
- F. Previous doctor's prescription

P7. What did you consider when selecting antibiotics? (Circle more than one if applicable)(1)

- A. Type of Antibiotic
- B. Brand of antibiotics
- C. Price of antibiotics
- D. Indications for use
- E. Adverse reactions or Allergies
- F. Others (specify)_____

P8. Where did you usually obtain antibiotics from for self-medication? (Circle more than one if applicable)(1)

- A. Community pharmacies
- B. Family and friends
- C. Leftover from previous prescription
- D. Others (specify)_____

P9. How did you know the dose of antibiotic you should take? (Circle more than one if applicable)(1)

- A. By checking the package insert
- B. By consulting a doctor
- C. By consulting a pharmacist
- D. By consulting family members/friends
- E. From the Internet
- F. From my previous experience
- G. By guessing by myself

P10. Did you ever change the dosage of antibiotics deliberately during the course of self-treatment?(1)

- A. Yes, always
- B. Yes, sometimes
- C. Never

P11. If your answer to the previous question was YES , Why did you change the dosage of antibiotics during the course of self-treatment ? (circle more than one if applicable)(1)

- A. Improving conditions
- B. Worsening conditions
- C. To reduce adverse reactions
- D. Drug insufficient for complete treatment
- E. Others (specify)_____

P12. Did you ever switch antibiotics during the course of self-treatment?(1)

- A. Yes, always
- B. Yes, sometimes
- C. Never

P13. If your answer to the previous question was YES ,Why did you switch antibiotics during the course of self-treatment? (circle more than one if applicable)(1)

- A. The former antibiotics did not work
- B. The former antibiotics ran out
- C. The latter one was cheaper
- D. To reduce adverse reactions
- E. Others (specify)_____

P14. How many different antibiotics did you take maximally during a single illness during the course of self-treatment?(1)

- A. One
- B. 1-3
- C. >3

P15. Have you ever found out that you had taken the same antibiotics with different names at the same time during the course of self-treatment?

- A. Yes
- B. No

P16. When did you normally stop taking antibiotics during the course of self-treatment? (circle more than one if applicable)(1)

- A. After a few days regardless of the outcome
- B. After symptoms disappeared
- C. A few days after the recovery
- D. After antibiotics ran out
- E. At the completion of the course
- F. After consulting a doctor/pharmacist

P17. Have you ever had any adverse reaction when you took antibiotics for self-medication?(1)

- A. Yes
- B. No

P18. If your answer to the previous question was YES, What did you do for the adverse reactions? (circle more than one if applicable)(1)

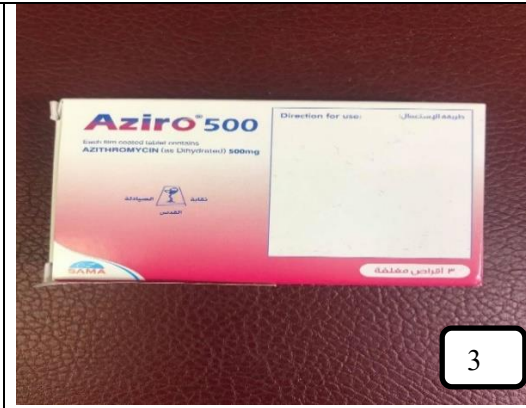
- A. Stopped taking antibiotic
- B. Switched to another antibiotic
- C. Consulted pharmacy staff
- D. Consulted a doctor
- E. Consulted family members/friends
- F. Nothing
- G. Others(specify)

P19. In front of you , there are pictures, each picture contains a set of antibiotics, please, choose the set that contains an antibiotic that you used for Self-Medication "without a prescription" (circle more than one if applicable):





4



3



6



5



8



7





10



9



12



11



14



13



15



16



17



18



19

20. I don't know

21. other (write the name of the antibiotic if you know it) : -----

1. **What do you think about self-medication with antibiotics for self health care? (Whether by consulting a pharmacist or recommendation from surrounding people)(1)**
 - A. Good practice
 - B. Acceptable Practice
 - C. Not Acceptable practice

2. **Do you think you can treat common infectious diseases with antibiotics successfully by yourself?(1)**
 - A. Yes, I can
 - B. Not sure
 - C. No, I cannot

1. Pan H, Cui B, Zhang D, Farrar J, Law F, Ba-Thein W. Prior Knowledge, Older Age, and Higher Allowance Are Risk Factors for Self-Medication with Antibiotics among University Students in Southern China. PLOS ONE [Internet]. 2012 Jul 20 [cited 2022 Oct 11];7(7):e41314. Available from: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0041314>

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