



Antibiotic Prescribing: A Risk Perspective

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Abstract:

Statement of the Problem: Antibiotics remain a mainstay in the treatment of potentially fatal bacterial diseases, preventing millions of deaths every year.¹ Optimization of antibiotic use is crucial to ensure rational and effective use whilst limiting use which contributes to antibiotic resistance in the community due to excessive use or under-dosing. A multi-disciplinary team concept, including protocol-driven pharmacist prescribing, supports efforts in ensuring rational use of antibiotics by patients in the community. The purpose of this study was to describe the pharmacist’s perceived risks of potential antibiotic prescribing by pharmacists. Methodology: A self-administered questionnaire was developed²⁻⁵ and validated via a two-round Delphi technique, and was disseminated to pharmacists practicing in Malta, electronically and personally through visits to pharmacies. The questionnaire had three sections and comprised Likert-scale questions anchored by 0 denoting the lowest score and 4 denoting the highest score, open-ended and close-ended questions. Data analysis was undertaken using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. Findings: Two hundred and nine pharmacists from a total sample of 930 answered the questionnaire, (6% margin of error).

Biography:

Maresca Attard Pizzuto studied Pharmacy at the University of Malta, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and graduated in 2008 and obtained her Ph.D. Degree in 2016. Her research work was related to risk and risk management in various pharmaceutical processes, and evaluated ways how risk in different pharmaceutical settings can be measured. Her work was presented in a number of conferences including the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy, the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists, the Interna-



tional Pharmaceutical Federation and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Dr. Attard Pizzuto is an academic at the Department of Pharmacy, University of Malta and her lecturing portfolio extends from applied pharmaceutical science to pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical regulatory science and drug information and statistics. She is also involved in the supervision of a number of undergraduate and postgraduate pharmacy students.

Recent Publications:

1. Exploring views of pharmacists on antibacterial prescribing: a Maltese perspective
2. Consumer perception of community pharmacist extended professional services
3. Practices and perceptions of medical practitioners on potential antibiotic prescribing by pharmacists
4. Perception of medical practitioners on antibiotic prescribing by pharmacists
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[Webinar on Antibiotics, November 21, 2020, Dubai, UAE](#)

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