

“Enhancing Interprofessional Collaboration and Learning for Strengthening Primary Health Care”

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Title	PERCEPTION AND PRACTICE OF SELF-MEDICATION WITH ANTIBIOTICS AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS IN SUDANESE UNIVERSITIES: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Community-Based Education for Health and Social Care Students</i>
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Content	<p>Introduction: The benefits of antibiotics are under threat by self-medication, which culminates in economic burdening in developing countries, treatment failures, the emergence of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria, and an increased probability of infection of the general population by antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains. Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the knowledge and attitude of medical students in Sudan towards the use of antibiotics, the prevalence of self-medication with antibiotics among medical students in Sudan, and to identify risk factors promoting self-medication with antibiotics. Methodology: This was a cross-sectional, descriptive, and institution-based study. 1,110 medical students were selected and surveyed by multistage cluster sampling. Logistic regression was used to identify risk factors of self-medication with antibiotics among the study participants. Results: The median knowledge score was 7/10 (IQR: 5-8). A moderately accurate attitude was also observed among the participants (Median: 7/10; IQR: 6-8). 675 (60.8%) used non-prescription antibiotics, mostly from community pharmacies (47.5%). Antibiotics were most commonly used to treat respiratory tract infections (38.1%) and cough (30.4%). Non-prescription antibiotic use was significantly associated with gender, year of study, and monthly income ($P < 0.01$). Conclusions: Undergraduate medical students had moderate knowledge and attitude towards antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance, and an alarmingly high prevalence of self-medication with antibiotics, highlighting the need for tighter regulations on antibiotic sales and revision of antimicrobial resistance content in medical education in Sudan.</p>