



UNIVERSITY OF TRIPOLI ALAHLIA
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

PROJECT TITLE

**ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIBING FOR URTIS BY
LIBYAN COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS**

PREPARED BY

Hadel Touba

Manar Elgeryani

SUPPERVISED BY: DR. AHMED ABIRED

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DEDICATION

I am greatly indebted to many people who have played different roles that enabled me to bring this work to its present form.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Inappropriate uses of antibiotics for treatment of common self-limiting infections is a major dispensing malpractice worldwide. This potentially may result in development of resistant bacterial strains, which represents a significant public health problem. This study aimed to describe the pattern of antibiotics dispensing by Community Pharmacists (CPs) regarding symptomatic diagnosis, antibiotic categories, and adherence to therapeutic doses. **Methods:** Between Jan to Jun 2019, by using trained simulated patients (SPs) with simulated clinical scenarios of having upper respiratory tract infections, across-sectional observational study of antibiotic dispensing encounters was conducted at 80 randomly selected pharmacies in the city of Tripoli, Libya. SPs were trained to deal with the pharmacists and record their notice after each visit in specific form developed by the researcher. The data were descriptively analysed, using Microsoft excel. **Results:** Different types of medicines were dispensed by the visited pharmacists for treating URTIs, ranges from mild analgesics to prescription items such as antibiotics, antihistamines, and cough medicines. Of the total 80 pharmacist surveyed, a 25% (n=20) of the visited pharmacists prescribed and dispensed antibiotics, representing a such good knowledge and dispensing behaviour. **Conclusions:** The findings suggested good professional practices by CPs. Our findings also suggest that dispensing regulations need to be maintained and community pharmacists must be supported.

Key words: Antibiotics – self-medication – misuse.

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