

EVALUATION OF PRESCRIBING PATTERNS FOR PEDIATRIC COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA IN THE OUT PATIENT DEPARTMENT OF A TERTIARY-CARE MEDICAL CENTER IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mary Antonette C. Madrid, Teresa D. Dacalanio

Philippine Children's Medical Center

INTRODUCTION

The issue of antibiotic resistance is one of the major concerns of experts in medicine. Therefore, appropriate antibiotic prescribing must be strongly encouraged among healthcare professionals. This study focused on PCAP as one of the most common diseases where antibiotics are prescribed. Also, it specifically covered the OPD where no antimicrobial stewardship program making it vulnerable to irrational prescribing patterns contributing to antibiotic resistance. This study assessed the prescribing patterns in the OPD of PCMC where it may encourage drug monitoring and improvement in the utilization of antibiotics.

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive, cross-sectional, retrospective study involving 600 patient encounters selected using convenience sampling was conducted at the OPD of PCMC. These are previously healthy patients aged 3 months to 18 years diagnosed with PCAP seen at the OPD of PCMC from January 2020-July 2022. The observed values of the prescribing indicators were compared with the optimal values recommended by the WHO.

RESULTS

There were 96% of the patient encounters that had at least one antibiotic prescribed ($SD \pm 0.20$). The average number of medicines prescribed per patient encounter was 2.05 ($SD \pm 0.85$). Of these, 100% were prescribed by generic name and from the essential drug list. The most commonly prescribed were antibiotics (43.17%) with Co-Amoxiclav (42.93%), Amoxicillin (37.76%), and Cefuroxime (7.59%) being the top three common prescribed antibiotics.

CONCLUSION

With respect to the Index of Rational Drug Prescribing (IRDP), PCMC scores well with 3.16, the most rational score being 4. However, this study highlights the high occurrence of prescribing antibiotics in the institution.

KEYWORDS

Antibiotic prescribing pattern, Out patient department, Pediatrics, WHO indicators