

KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER - PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY DIVISION EXTERNSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATES IN PRESCRIBING ANTIBIOTICS FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS: IMPLICATIONS FOR ENHANCEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM



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**INTRODUCTION**

Odontogenic infections that are usually localized in nature respond well to treatment but in pediatric patients, can spread rapidly due to the wide marrow spaces and developing bones of children that are less dense than the adults. Therapeutic approach includes diagnosis and management and usually prescription of antibiotics. This is a benchmark study to identify the level of knowledge and practice of PCMC-PDD ETP graduates on prescribing antibiotics to pediatric patients. The results of the study may be used to initiate in establishing an antimicrobial stewardship program to guide ongoing and future Externship Training Program trainees.

**OBJECTIVES**

To identify level of knowledge and practices of graduates of the Philippine Children's – Pediatric Dentistry Division in prescribing antibiotics to pediatric patients. To determine if there is a relationship between knowledge and practice of PCMC-PDD ETP graduates in prescribing antibiotics to pediatric patients.

**METHODS**

The study used a cross sectional one-shot survey with 165 respondents. The survey was divided into three (3) parts where part two (2) and three (3) included 15 questions to determine the level of knowledge and prescribing practice of antibiotics to pediatric patients.

**RESULTS**

The majority of the respondents were all college graduates, females, and private practitioners with more than 10 years of experience. 30 percent of the respondents were from the years 2001-2005 with an overall knowledge of 11 (10.73, High Knowledge). The questions regarding knowledge on antibiotic resistance got the most (mean score: 1.90) correct questions answered while questions pertaining to knowledge on antibiotic coverage got the least (mean score: 4.77). More than 50 percent of the respondents have high scores for questions pertaining to prescribing practices where graduates adhere to clinical guidelines (mean score: 11.6) and consider antibiotic coverage (mean score 15.27) when prescribing to pediatric patients.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Overall knowledge and practice on prescribing antibiotics of PCMC-PDD ETP graduates are both independently high. However, there is no direct correlation between knowledge and practice. Proposal of an enhancement education program will provide to connect the knowledge and prescribing practice of PCMC-PDD ETP graduates and current externship trainees.

**KEYWORDS**

Knowledge, Practice, Prescribing, Antibiotic Stewardship, Antibiotic Resistance, Externship Training Program, Pediatric Dentistry Division