

A STUDY ON ANTIBIOTICS USE AMONG OUT-PATIENT CLINICS OF LABOR INSURERS IN TAIWAN

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In order to investigate the use of antimicrobial drugs among labor insurers, a sample of 3567 prescriptions selected by stratified systematic sampling from a total of 27 million out-patient visits in 1981 were studied. Main findings are as follows :

- (1) About one-half of the OPD patients were prescribed with antibiotics and about a quarter of them were given by injection.
- (2) Among those given with antibiotics, 30.7 % were prescribed with two or more kinds. It was a popular practice that drugs were given in both oral and parenteral administrations.
- (3) Among those upper respiratory infection (URI) patients, 74.3% were given with antibiotics.
- (4) Ampicillin was the most commonly used antibiotics, this situation was the same as in many other countries. Chloramphenicol, an antibiotics with high toxicity and many side effects and used under severe restricted conditions in many countries, was the fourth commonly prescribed antibiotics (10.6%) . Moreover, it turned out the second commonly used injectable antibiotics (19.4 %) , and most of the time this drug was given to the URI patients.

From the above findings, antibiotics was obviously abused by the medical clinicians in Taiwan. A comprehensive drug surveillance system, continuing education of practitioner on drug use, and health education of general public regarding drug virtues are urgently needed in order to promote the health of public.

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