Understanding of antibiotic use and resistance among final-year pharmacy and medical students: A pilot study

Abstract

Introduction: This study is aimed to investigate the understanding of antibiotics use and antibiotic resistance and to compare these among final-year medical and pharmacy students at International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Methodology: This was a cross-sectional study. The study instrument was developed by a literature search and was subjected to face validity and content validity by medical and pharmacy educators. A pilot study was conducted to assess the reliability of the instrument. Data were analysed using SPSS version 17 and descriptive and inferential statistics were applied. Results: A total of 138 questions were included in the study. Out of 121 respondents: 55.9% (n = 72) were final-year medical students while 44.1% (n = 53) were final-year pharmacy students. The majority of the respondents showed adequate knowledge regarding the source of antibiotics (5 - 72%) while less than 70% showed adequate knowledge regarding resistance (less than 10%). Conclusions: The study results indicated that the students had good understanding regarding antibiotics use. In comparison to medical students, pharmacy students showed better understanding and more adequate knowledge, as the mean value for each domain was slightly higher for pharmacy students. Emphasis on improving the curriculum and educating health professionals, especially physicians and pharmacists, is needed to protect antibiotics from misuse and overuse.

Keywords

Antibiotic resistance, medical students, pharmacy students

Indexed keywords

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