

Assessment of the Self-Medication of Antipyretic Medicines Among the Children at District Shaheed Benazirabad, Pakistan

Akbar ALI¹, Imran SUHERYANI², Muhammad A. GHOTO², Abdullah DAYO², Arslan AHMER^{3*}, Syed S. A. S. RIZVI⁴, Tahseen AHMED³, Waqar A. SABZOI², Hosh M. LASHARI², Rashid A. ARBANI⁵, Muhammad USMAN⁶, Rizwana AYUB³ & Hetesh KUMAR⁴

¹ Pharmacist, Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, Government of Panjab, Pakistan

² Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan.

³ Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, People's University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women (PUMHSW), Nawabshah, Pakistan.

⁴ College of Pharmacy, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, Pakistan.

⁵ Department of Pharmacy, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan.

⁶ Procurement Officer, Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, Government of Panjab, Pakistan.

SUMMARY. Fever is among the most common sign and symptoms treated by general physicians and pediatricians. This cross-sectional study was conducted at various medical care centers at district Shaheed Benazirabad. Total 400 study subjects were involved that were suffering from acute and chronic fever and their guardians or parents were also included in this study. From the current study it was finalized that number of people used to take various antipyretic drugs such as paracetamol (23.25%), ibuprofen (20.25%), dexibuprofen (12%), mefenamic acid (35.75%), aspirin (0.75%), antibiotics (3.25%) and other drugs (4.75%) and benefits of self-medications was observed in 134 whereas 176 didn't get benefits from self-medication and 90 didn't knew the self-medication. It was concluded that qualification plays an important role in health care safety and it was observed less qualified parents were not having proper knowledge regarding consumption of antipyretics.

RESUMEN. La fiebre es uno de los signos y síntomas más comunes tratados por médicos generales y pediatras. Este estudio transversal se realizó en varios centros de atención médica en el distrito de Shaheed Benazirabad. Participaron un total de 400 sujetos de estudio que padecían fiebre aguda y crónica y sus guardianes o padres también se incluyeron en este estudio. Del estudio actual se concluyó que gran cantidad de personas tomaban varios medicamentos antipiréticos como el paracetamol (23.25%), ibuprofeno (20.25%), dexibuprofeno (12%), ácido mefenámico (35.75%), aspirina (0.75%), antibióticos (3.25%) y otros medicamentos (4.75%); los beneficios de la automedicación se observaron en 134, mientras que 176 no obtuvieron beneficios de la automedicación y 90 no conocían la automedicación. Se concluyó que la calificación desempeña un papel importante en la seguridad de la atención médica y se observó que los padres menos calificados no tenían el conocimiento adecuado sobre el consumo de antipiréticos.

KEY WORDS: antipyretics, dexibuprofen, mefenamic acid, pediatricians, pyretic, OTC drugs.

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: arslan.ahmer@gmail.com