Study of Self Medication Practice among 2nd Year Undergraduate Medical Students.

Sunil S Gidamudi1, Sujata A Jadhav2, Chitra C Khanwelkar2, Vandana M Thorat2, Rohit R Desai3, Abhay A Purohit3.

1Department of Pharmacology, BKL Walawalkar Rural Medical College, Karad, Maharashtra, India.
2Department of Pharmacology, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad, Maharashtra, India.
3Senior Pharmacovigilance Physician, Quintiles India Pvt Ltd., Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

ABSTRACT

To assess and analyze the self-medication practice among 2nd year undergraduate medical students. To investigate types of medication commonly used to self-medicate. This was a cross-sectional, descriptive, questionnaire based study with three months illness recall. The pre validated questionnaire containing both open-ended and close-ended questions was used for the study. The questionnaire was distributed to all 2nd year students attending the Pharmacology class on particular day. Results were analyzed by descriptive statistics. A total of 151 students participated in the study. 93.38% students had self-medicated in the last three months. The drugs most commonly used were the paracetamol (75.18%), cetirizine (28.37%), azithromycin (14.89%) and omeprazole (12.06%). The most common indications were the URTI (75.89%), fever (54.6%), headache (35.46%) and gastric acidity (24.82%). Prior experience (45.39%) was the most common factor associated with self-medication and most common information source being the advice from physician but without prescription (38.29%). Self-medication was most commonly practiced among students of the institute. So, faculties should create awareness and educate the students regarding advantages and disadvantages of self-medication.

Keywords: Questionnaire, Indications; Prior experience, Information source.

*Corresponding author