



# UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**EVALUATION OF PRESCRIBING PATTERN OF ANTIBIOTICS FOR  
URTI (UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS) CASES IN ACCIDENT  
AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITAL  
SEBRANG JAYA, PULAU PINANG**

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## ABSTRACT

**Background** : To evaluate the prescribing patterns of antibiotics for URTI cases in Accident and Emergency Department of Hospital Seberang Jaya.

**Objectives** : To explore the pattern and describe the antibiotics prescribing in patients with URTI.

**Method** : Data extracted from prescriptions of Out-Patient Pharmacy Department of Hospital Seberang Jaya from October 2007- January 2008. We randomly selected about 410 prescriptions from the total of all prescriptions within 4 months.

**Result** : Antibiotic was prescribed in 46.34% of patients diagnosed with URTI out of 410 encounters.

**Conclusion** : Antibiotics prescribing rate in URTI is high. The prescribers need to re-examine their own prescribing in URTI and decide whether it is consistent with current guidelines.

## CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

Upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) is common. The etiology factor is usually viral, but many physicians prescribed antibiotics. We aimed to evaluate the prescribing pattern of antibiotics for URTI cases in Casualty Department of Seberang Jaya Hospital

### **DEFINITION:**

Upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) is a common illness among the adult and children. URTI is a non specific term used to describe acute infections involving the nose, paranasal sinuses, pharynx, larynx, trachea and bronchi. The clinical symptoms of URTI ,include fever, runny nose, sore throat, body ache, headache, nausea and vomiting.

Viral URTI spread primarily by direct contact with secretion of infected individual. Adult develop an average of two to four URTI per year. Most children have about four to six acute URTI each year.

### **PATHOPHYSIOLOGY:**

Viruses that cause most of the URTI with Rhinovirus, parainfluenza virus, coronavirus, adenovirus, respiratory syncytial virus, coxsakievirus and influenza is asystemic illness that involves the URTI.

Despite the predominantly viral cause, antibiotics are frequently prescribed to children and adult with symptoms URTI. Most URTI are caused by viruses. Even when caused by bacteria, many are self-limiting infection.

Although it seems like antibiotics would be the one of the better options for fighting the flu, this is actually not the case. Antibiotics have completely different purpose. Antibiotics are medicines that kill bacteria and are, therefore, only useful for treating bacteria infection. The flu is a viral infection not bacteria. In appropriate or unnecessary antibiotics prescribing can be harmful to patient because it can cause the emergence and spread of resistant organism.