

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

ASSESSMENT OF ANTIBIOTIC USE IN UPPER RESPIRATORY
TRACT INFECTION AT EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF
HOSPITAL SUNGAI BULOH

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ABSTRACT

Upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) is mostly viral in aetiology, but patients presenting with such complaints are frequently prescribed antibiotics. The objectives of this study are to find out the prescribing pattern of antibiotic in treating URIs of adult patients in Emergency Department of Hospital Sungai Buloh. This is a retrospective observational study done in the ED Hospital Sungai Buloh (EDHSGB). All outpatient data received in May 2014 with relevant diagnoses were analysed. 200 URTI patients were included in the study. 76.5% had antibiotic prescribed. The most common antibiotics given in the ED were augmentin with azithromycin. Medical Assistants (MAs) were significantly more likely to prescribe antibiotics compared to Medical Officers (MOs) ($p < 0.001$). Prescribers were significantly influenced by the patient's age, severity of the symptoms and specific diagnosis when prescribing antibiotics for URTI ($p < 0.001$).

Keywords: Upper respiratory tract infection (URTI), antibiotic (AB), prescribing, Emergency Department (ED).

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Today, the most common drugs prescribed in hospitals are antibiotics. During hospitalizations that up to third of all patients receive at least one antibiotic when it has been estimated (Lim et al., 1993). Respiratory tract infections (RTIs) also are one of the most popular community-acquired infectious diseases, which can affect all ages and economic groups (Bartlett et al., 1996). The risk factors for infection were cigarette smoking, direct contact with peoples intermittent use of surgical face masks and non-use of alcohol based hand disinfection. RTI actually can be categorized into upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) and lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI). Commonly, both children and adults will develop URTI and URTI also is a major cause of mild morbidity.

Actually, there are numerous visits to primary care facilities due to upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) which is a worldwide infection. Over 37 million URTIs patient visits the emergency departments in a single year have been accounted in the United States. Meanwhile, private and government healthcare clinics in Malaysia had received approximately 30% of visits (C L Teng et al., 2004) URTI is a disease which encompasses pharyngeal, sinus and lower airway symptoms, where there is no symptoms are prominent and cannot be clearly established the exact site of infection.(Gonzales et al., 2001; Lim et al., 1993)

The group A β -haemolytic streptococcus (GABHS) is the most bacterial pathogen in URTI patient, which was noticed adults who have URTI symptoms get this infection in only 2.4 to 17% (Cheong et al., 1995; Hong et al., 2004; Linder JA & Stafford RS, 2001; Poole & Tobin, 1973).