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Perioperative antibiotic prophylaxis in elective surgeries in Iran

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Background: The use of antibiotics prior to surgery is widely accepted. The WHO has recommended the use of ATC/DDD (anatomical therapeutic chemical/defined daily dose) for the analysis of drug utilization. The aims of the present study are: 1) to analyze the assessment of prophylactic antibiotic usage prior to surgery; 2) to assess the drug administration based on antibiograms and; 3) to compare the results with the national and international standards.

Methods: The present study used ATC/DDD in a retrospective manner. Cefazolin, ceftazidime, gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, metronidazole, vancomycin, imipenem and penicillin G from 21st March to 21st June 2011 were analyzed in a hospital. Out of 516 medical records, 384 patients had received prophylactic antibiotics.

Results: In comparison, the orthopaedic ward had used more antibiotics. The results showed that antibiotics were not selected based on the antibiogram antibiotic programs. Patients in the age range of 20–30 years were the recipients of most antibiotics. Men had received more antibiotics in comparison to women. About 75% (384 out of 516) of patients in the study received antibiotics as prophylaxis. Cefazolin was the most frequently prescribed antibiotic.

Conclusion: Our findings showed differences in comparison with national and international studies, but insignificant differences. Data on in-hospital antibiotic usage are varying widely, not only due to different antibiotic policies but also due to different methods of measurement. These differences make the comparison difficult.

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