Abstract

To examine knowledge of and self-treatment with antibiotics among medically-insured adults in Mexico. Materials and methods. We conducted a cross-sectional, interviewer-administered survey among 101 adult patients seeking care for acute respiratory tract infections in a family medicine clinic in Mexico. Knowledge scores were calculated as a composite of correct, incorrect and don't know responses. Factors associated with antibiotic knowledge and antibiotic self-treatment were explored with bivariate analyses. Results. 47% of participants were taking antibiotics prior to the visit, 20% were self-treating. Antibiotic knowledge was highly variable. Many participants believed common nonantibiotic treatments for colds and coughs were antibiotics, such as ambroxol (45%), Desenfriol (45%) and paracetamol (44%). Older participants (>40 years) had better knowledge scores. Discussion. Self-treatment with and misperceptions about antibiotics are common among medically insured adults seeking medical attention in Mexico.

Keywords

Antibiotics, Respiratory tract infections, selfcare, Mexico.