



ISSN: 1697-090X

Rev Electron Biomed / Electron J Biomed 2007;1:5-7

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Editorial:

JUDICIOUS USE OF ANTIBIOTICS. A SUPPORTED CHALLENGE.

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At the end of the year 2006 the Ministry of Health and Consumption has promoted a new campaign brings over of the prudent employment of antibiotics, as the first strategy to considering to minimize the appearance of resistances opposite to the same ones¹. Qualified national experts have pleaded of way repeated by the urgent need of adopting efficient measures of control in this area^{2,3,4}. Our activity in the sanitary public system has allowed us throughout last years to initiate us modestly in the field of the clinical epidemiology⁵ and from it to approach the studies of appropriate use of antimicrobial in determined clinical infectious syndromes ^{6,7,8,9,10}. From this position we have approached two of the facts, in the first term to describe the variability in the habits of prescription that we adopt the doctors and secondly to value the suitability of the same ones. In an applied way the developed studies have done particular reference to the services of urgencies to that there attend so much adult as paediatric patients, for constituting a real "watchtower" of the clinical practice in the field of the therapeutic boarding of the infectious diseases.

It has allowed us to develop some projects financed by the Fund of Sanitary Researches, in which in the methodological part we have been still the systematic one of the Conferences of Consensus (CC) of the National Institutes of Health of the United States of America adapted to the reality in which the clinical practice is exercised in our country⁷. Exactly for the evaluation of the suitability it was necessary to define the "boss - gold" of appropriate use of antibiotics, task who entrusted itself to experts' panels, that following CC's methodology, was establishing the considered treatments adapted in each of the different infections that were analyzed. These standards were in use later in the study of suitability, comparing them with the prescriptions realized in the cases gathered in the emergency services.

With the exposed methodology our group could have documented by means of multicentric studies that globally considered the pictures of respiratory infection valued so much for adult population ⁸ since(as) paediatric⁹ the suitability of the prescription does not overcome 50 % of the cases. The analyses for clinical prevalent forms in such adults as Pharyngitis¹⁰ and Pneumonia¹¹ or for other clinical features frequent in children such as Otitis¹² or bronchial infections¹³ offer a few percentages of appropriateness of antibiotic prescription manifestly improvable. In this respect it has seemed to us to be opportune to stimulate series in which the appropriate was evaluated to the scientific evidence¹⁴. In a concomitant way in the time we have supported interest to describe the conceptual aspects of the consumption associated with the prescription¹⁵ and of not less problematic

phenomenon of the self-medication¹⁶. The knowledge in this topic encouraged us to think about the indicators used in the studies of utilization of medicaments¹⁷ and to describe the consumption of the systemic antibiotics realized in our environment¹⁸, valuing his pharmacoconomic aspects^{19, 20}, his geographical variability²¹ as well as his relation with the population structure²².

All these aspects form an area in which they fit multidisciplinary efforts and in which all the initiatives have to be valued for positive. Not uselessly the prudent use of the antibiotics is formed as a supported challenge.

Acknowledgments: We thank to the members of The Spanish Group of Study of the Antibiotic Treatments in his different phases of constitution.

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