



## ORIGINAL RESEARCH

### Assessing Knowledge about Antibiotic Resistance and the Prevalence of Self-Medication with Antibiotics among Community Pharmacy Clients in Lagos State.

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#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Knowledgeable self-medication has its advantages, however, without adequate information, it can be dangerous and harmful. Self-medication with antibiotics (SMA) is common in Nigeria and has led to increased cases of drug resistance, threatening the future relevance of antibiotics.

**Objectives:** To determine the prevalence of SMA among walk-in patients in pharmacies in Lagos state, assessing their level of knowledge about antibiotics, antibiotic resistance, and conditions for use.

**Methods:** The research involved three community pharmacies in Ikeja, Apapa, and Agege areas of Lagos representing high, medium, and low-income areas, respectively. Willing participants above 15 years of age were administered a questionnaire with questions aimed at assessing how often they engage in SMA and their familiarity with factors causing antibiotic resistance. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics and results were presented in tables. Chi-square was used to determine levels of association between variables with P-values significant at  $< 0.05$  at 95% confidence interval.

**Results:** Among the respondents, 35.1% indulged in SMA while 64.5% purchased their antibiotic medications through a healthcare professional's recommendation. Over two-thirds of the respondents had basic knowledge of antibiotic use with a similar fraction being familiar with the existence of antibiotic resistance and factors that contribute to its development.

**Conclusion:** A majority of the respondents were knowledgeable regarding antibiotic use and factors that could lead to antibiotic resistance however, many of them still practiced self-medication with antibiotics. Health promotional activities are encouraged for further enlightenment of the public so as to reduce the widespread prevalence of this challenge.

**Keywords:** Self-medication with antibiotics; Healthcare professionals (HCPs); Community pharmacies; Knowledge and Practice; Antibiotics use and misuse; Antibiotic resistance