

# THE ROLE OF PHARMACISTS IN DECREASING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

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## Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) dedicated 2011. Health Day to antimicrobial resistance with a message- *"No action today, no cure tomorrow"*. This slogan calls pharmacists at public pharmacies, the most available health workers, to prove readiness in being the strongest link in promoting health, educating the population and showing correct use of medicine.

## Aims

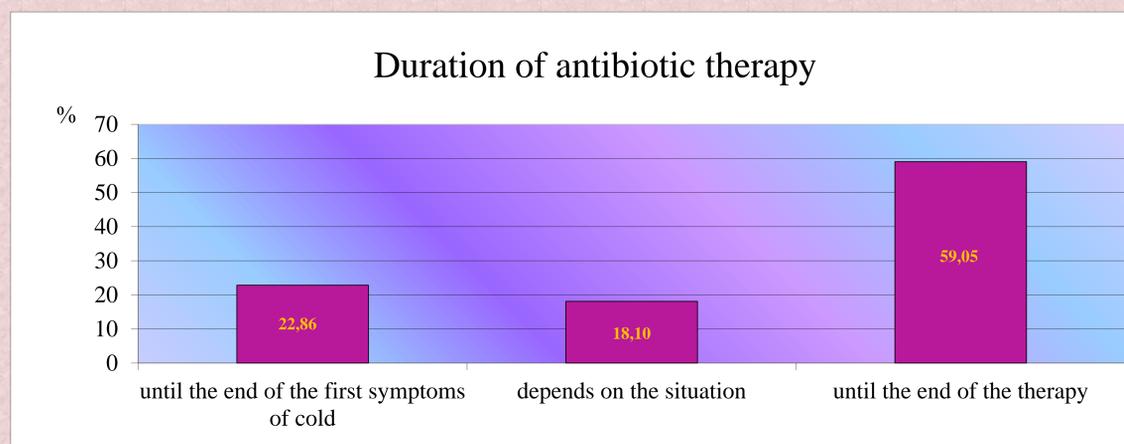
Introduce pharmacy clients with concept of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and research their behavior before the use antibiotics.

## Methods

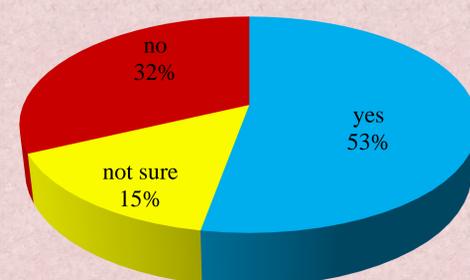
In 3 federal pharmacies in the area of Bor adult users, who were chosen by a random method on 07.04.2011, were given educational materials and a questionnaire with 10 questions about their experience in using oral antibiotics and their knowledge of AMR.

## Results

173 brochures and questionnaires were distributed and a total of 106 which were completely filled out were returned to us. The questions were separated into 3 segments- behavior of participants with symptoms of infection, use of antibiotics, and resistance to antibiotics. When they have symptoms of infection, the pharmacy is the first stop of the patients (47.17%) and then their chosen doctor (42.45%). For cold in pharmacy patients usually buy medicine based on pharmacists' recommendation (66.99%), other self medicate with antibiotics (29.13%) and an even smaller percentage (3.88%) rely on information from television commercials. Out of the 56 participants who claimed to know what antimicrobial resistance was 46 did not prove that knowledge through correct use of antibiotics. Out of 50 participants who were not sure or did not know what antimicrobial resistance was 47 were not using antibiotics correctly. **Thus according to our study, out of 106 participants, 93 needed further advice on utilizing antibiotics and decreasing their chances of antimicrobial resistance- they are target for pharmacists' action.**



## Do you know what is antimicrobial resistance?



## Conclusion

Results from these research are incomplete knowledge of the patients about correct use of oral antibiotics as well as antimicrobial resistance. Knowledge and skills that pharmacists possess can be utilized to minimize the causes of antimicrobial resistance. The fact that patients come to pharmacists first is a sign that we must organize for further action. The solution to the problem of antimicrobial resistance requires a more active team effort from pharmacists and primary care physicians.

## References

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