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Uses and abuses of antibiotics in pediatric dentistry

Antibiotics (AB) were considered one of the greatest inventions of 20th century. Before this, infectious diseases contributed to high mortality and morbidity throughout the world. Soon antibiotic resistance became an issue of growing concern. At present, antibiotics are the most commonly sold medicines worldwide. The rampant and excessive use of antibiotics for any and every condition has escalated the problem of antibiotic resistance. Uncontrolled use of AB, especially in childhood, reduces bacteria that normally exist in a body maintaining normal macrophage activity as the primary immune-regulatory cells. Uncontrolled use of AB helps in establishing an inadequate immune-regulation that is present in a significant number of children in the form of frequent allergies, an increase of asthma, bone marrow dysfunction. There is a need to improve parents' knowledge about antibiotics and promote healthier attitudes and practices. Interaction between parents and health professionals can help to improve the parents' views regarding the use and indications of AB and the importance of completing their course. Mass media can also play an important role in disseminating the appropriate information to the general public. Stringent laws should be enforced by the government that prohibit the availability of antibiotics as over the counter remedies. Also, pharmacist should be encouraged to give only the amount of AB as mentioned in the prescription and not as per pack size. Lack of knowledge regarding antibiotic resistance was prevalent. Confusion was more among those with lower formal education. More interaction with pediatricians and involvement of community can help to improve the antibiotics knowledge and practices among parents and thus, control the problem of AB resistance.

Biography

Dusan Surdilovic DDS, MSc, PhD is Associate Professor, Head of Department of Preventive and Pediatric Dentistry at Gulf Medical University, UAE from 2015. He served as Assistant Professor at Dental Faculty, University of Nis, Serbia, Europe, for 15 years, along with 18 years of experience in Pediatric and Preventive Dentistry. He is designated member of European Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (EAPD). He published more than 50 scientific articles, chapters and course books. He was researcher at Karolinska Institute Stockholm, Sweden. Dr Surdilovic has significant number of appreciation certificates awarded following participations and contributions in national and international dental congresses, conferences and workshops. Licensed to practice from the several dental registers (Serbia, Norway, UAE). He has a vast interest in research in saliva, biology of the hard dental tissue, caries risk assessment, dental anxiety, oral medicine and oral surgery in pediatric dentistry especially with physically and mentally impaired pediatric patients.

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