

POSTER SESSION 2 ABSTRACTS
12th Annual HMO Research Network Conference

May 1-3, 2006 Boston, MA

Health Communications
PS2-36

**Pharmacists' Knowledge and Attitude of Antibiotic
and Its' Impact on Communication in South Korea**

SeongOk Kim ^{1,2}

¹Fellow at the Department of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, Harvard Medical School;

²Senior Researcher at the National Health Insurance Corporation (South Korea)

Background: Since South Korea government implemented policy prohibiting physicians' dispensing services, it has been reported that the use of antibiotics and injections use have been decreasing. But it is known there are some barriers in communication between pharmacists and physicians regarding to antibiotic use in viral diseases. Thus we need to investigate communication pattern and its' determinants to develop strategy for rational antibiotic use in viral diseases.

Methods: To investigate communication pattern between pharmacists and physicians regarding to antibiotic use in viral diseases, survey items were developed to conclude pharmacists' knowledge, attitude, communication pattern, and demography, and then pre-tested for 3 pharmacists. Mail survey was implemented from Sep. 7 – Oct. 22, 2004. Among 500 pharmacists in sample, 252 replied and the response rate is 50.4%. Descriptive analysis and logistic regression were conducted with the SAS version 8.01.

Results: Eighty-six percent and 95 percent of respondents agreed that cold and flu is viral disease each. And agreement rates are 59% and 54% for each acute bronchitis and acute sore throat is due to virus. Although only 37% of respondents agreed that antibiotics are effective in each cold and flue, the agreement rates for each acute bronchitis and sore throat are as high as 83% and 80% respectively. Most respondents recognized antibiotic resistance as severe health issue and they thought the main cause of resistance based on the doctors' prescribing antibiotics for outpatients. And pharmacists recognized the barriers in communication were lack of time, lack of information, worrying about doctor relationship. The logistic regression results showed that pharmacists who work more than two pharmacists rather than solo, hold accurate knowledge in viral disease, and recognize antibiotic resistance, positive attitude on policy prohibiting doctors' dispensing are more active in communication with doctors about antibiotics prescribing in viral diseases.

Conclusions: Pharmacists hold correct knowledge in some viral diseases (cold and flu), but not in other diseases (acute bronchitis and acute sore throat). Extended educational program for pharmacists necessary to correct pharmacists' misconceptions about viral diseases and effectiveness of antibiotics. Some policy intervention should be implemented to lessen the burden of pharmacists and thus improve communication between pharmacists and doctors for better rational antibiotic use.