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The practice of preoperative antibiotic prophylaxis in Iraqi Hospitals

Maisulrim AL Shammari
Mustansirya University, Iraq

Statement of the Problem: Preoperative antibiotic prophylaxis is still a widely used practice in the Middle East. However, the use of antibiotic is just one of many precautions that could be taken to help reduce the rate of infection include basic infection control strategies, instrument sterilization and CHx mouth rinsing. Patient medical status with perioperative and postoperative management play an important role in the prevention of post-procedure infection. The aim of this study is to evaluate the importance of perioperative antibiotic prophylaxis in the prevention of post-procedure infection.

Methodology and Results: In this study, data are collected through manual review of the health record of 800 men and women aged 17–60 years; mean age \approx 43 year. 680 patients (\approx 86% of the sample size) received antibiotic prophylaxis (mean duration of 6 days). The most frequently prescribed antibiotics were Amoxicillin (\approx 77%) and Erythromycin (21%). 87.3% of those patients who received antibiotic prophylaxis, received post procedural antibiotic, 5.5% received preprocedural antibiotic only, while 7.2% received pre and post procedures antibiotic. The postprocedure antibiotic was indicated for 83.7% when antibiotic prophylaxis was administered to them. The prolonged duration of antibiotic allowed only 10.2% of patients to receive antibiotic appropriately. There were no occurrences of post-procedure infection or systemic infection after 4 months post-procedure evaluation.

Conclusion & Significance: Antibiotic prophylaxis might not be needed for all cases and there are only a few situations in which antibiotics should be prescribed. Patients at risk of endocarditis and late prosthetic joint infections are indicated for antibiotic prophylaxis treatment. Otherwise, there is no clear scientific evidence for use of pre-procedure antibiotic in dental treatment. There is a little scientific basis for use of antibiotic prophylaxis in dentistry. The risk of antibiotic allergy, inappropriate use of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance appear to be more important than prophylactic consideration.

maysalreem576@gmail.com