





Prescribing Patterns of Antibiotics among the Pediatric Patients Attended the Outpatient Departments of the Tertiary Level Hospitals in Nigeria: A Cross-Sectional Study

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 20 February 2023

Reviewer: The manuscript provides important insights into antibiotic prescribing patterns but requires additional revisions for depth, clarity, and broader relevance. Recommendations focus on enhancing methodological transparency, comparative analysis, and the applicability of findings.

The clinical significance and potential implications for patient safety and public health need further articulation.

The selection of hospitals and prescriptions needs a better explanation to understand how well these findings can be generalized to other settings in Nigeria or similar environments.

- More granular details on the types of antibiotics prescribed, the conditions treated, and the age distribution of patients.
- Suggestions on how to promote rational drug use among prescribers and recommendations for policy adjustments.

- More recent and relevant literature should be included, especially studies that offer a comparative view or innovative strategies in prescription management.

Authors revised the manuscript and submitted the document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Date: 22 February 2023

Reviewer: The study provides valuable insights into pediatric antibiotic prescribing patterns in Nigeria. However, it requires substantial revision to strengthen its methodological detailing, contextual understanding, and implications for practice.

1. **Scope and Relevance:** The topic is highly relevant given the global challenge of antibiotic resistance. The study's geographical focus adds value by highlighting prescription patterns in a less-researched context. However, the implications for wider healthcare practices and policy need to be drawn more clearly.
2. **Methodological Rigor:** The use of convenience sampling and WHO/INRUD indicators is appropriate. However, there is a need for more detailed justification of the sample size, potential biases, and the representativeness of the two hospitals for the larger healthcare system in Nigeria.
3. **Data Presentation:** While the data is comprehensive, the presentation could be improved for clarity. More visual representation (charts/graphs) and a more detailed breakdown of the types of antibiotics prescribed and the rationale would enhance understanding.

Recommendations for Revision:

- **Expand Discussion on Contextual Factors:** More information on how local practices, healthcare policies, or pharmaceutical promotion might contribute to observed prescribing patterns.
- **Enhance Methodological Detailing:** Include a more in-depth discussion of the sampling technique, data collection, and analysis process.
- **Address Ethical Considerations:** Provide more details on ethical approval, patient consent process, and anonymity in data collection.

Authors revised the manuscript and submitted the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.