

**ARE ANTIBIOTICS USED APPROPRIATELY IN THE SURGICAL WARDS? AN
AUDIT OF ANTIBIOTIC USE IN THE SURGICAL WARDS OF TEACHING
HOSPITAL, PERADENIYA**

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This study aims to test the hypothesis that the decision to administer antibiotics is often made without prior investigation of the infecting microorganism and without due consideration of the pharmacodynamics of the drug being used.

The study was conducted at the surgical wards of the Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya. Two hundred patients who presented consecutively to the surgical wards were included. Data on the indication for antibiotics use and the type of antibiotics prescribed were collected prospectively. The patients were followed up until the time they were discharged from the hospital or for a period of 10 days the most. The aptness of the antibiotic use was determined with the aid of guidelines obtained from ten universally accepted references. The choice of an antibiotic or combination of antibiotics for a specific condition along with doses administered was tallied with these universal guidelines. If tallied, that particular antibiotic use was taken as an appropriately administered antibiotic regimen. Other un-tallied cases were considered as inappropriate antibiotic administration.

One hundred and eighty eight patients were chosen for the study from among the 200 cases. Of the 188, ninety eight patients (52%) had received antibiotics; Of these 20 (20.4%) received the antibiotic for prophylaxis, 76 (77.5%) for therapeutic reasons and 2 for both prophylactic followed by therapeutic purposes. The antibiotic use was shown inappropriate in 50%. The inappropriateness in prophylactic antibiotic use was 63.6% (14/22) whereas in the therapeutic category it was 46.2 % (36/78).

The use of antibiotics is inappropriate in 51% of cases at surgical wards of Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya.