



Fund “Nauka” Project № 24033 Resume – Autumn Competition-based Session 2024:
“Knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to antimicrobial resistance in dermatological care”

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Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a critical global public health threat, leading to complications in the treatment of bacterial infections and heightened mortality rate. Overuse of antibiotics in both human medicine and agriculture is a significant factor in the spread of AMR. Special attention has been paid to the role of health professionals providing dermatological care, since antibiotics are commonly prescribed to treat skin infections.

Objectives: Exploration and analysis of knowledge, attitudes and practices of adolescents and young adults towards self-medication for skin conditions, as well as that of cosmetologists regarding AMR-related professional practices in dermatological care, in order to present a comprehensive picture of the problem and to propose strategies for improvement.

Materials and methods:

- (1) Analysis of literature and scientific papers on the topic AMR in the context of dermatological practice;
- (2) A nationally representative survey of young people (aged 18-30) on antibiotics self-medication for skin diseases and their attitudes towards self-treatment;
- (3) A survey among cosmetologists on their dermatology-related AMR practices and knowledge of AMR;
- (4) Statistical analysis will include descriptive and parametric and non-parametric hypothesis testing methods.

Исследователски задачи:

- (1) Събиране на количествени данни за знанията, нагласите и поведението на младите хора относно самолечението при кожни проблеми чрез стандартизиран въпросник, разпространен сред 500 - 800 участници на възраст от 18 до 30 години.
- (2) Събиране на данни за знанията, нагласите и практиките на козметиците по отношение на антимикробната резистентност (АМР) чрез въпросник, предназначен за професионални козметици.

- (3) Обработка и анализ на количествените данни с помощта на SPSS и качествените данни чрез тематичен анализ за извеждане на ключови теми.
- (4) Интегриране на резултатите от количествения и качествен анализ за формулиране на препоръки за по-добра осведоменост и ефективни стратегии за справяне със самолечението и АМР в медицинската козметика.

Expected results:

- (1) Assessment of the prevalence of self-medication with antibiotics and attitudes towards the use of antibiotics among young adult Bulgarian population;
- (2) Comparative analysis of Bulgarian cosmetologists' degree of AMR knowledge and practices and the implementation of international practice standards;
- (3) Publications in international peer-reviewed and refereed journals;
- (4) Defended PhD thesis on the researched topic.