

SELF MEDICATION PRACTICES AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN ATTENDING THE STATE HOSPITAL, OSOGBO NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to assess the practice of self medication among pregnant women attending the State Hospital Osogbo, Osun State Nigeria. Through the use of purposive sampling method, 95 respondents were selected as sample for the study. A self designed questionnaire was used as instrument for data gathering. It comprised 25 questions which were in four sections. The psychometric property of the instrument using the Cronbach's Alpha co-efficient was 0.760. At the end of questionnaire administration, only 80 questionnaires were retrieved and analyzed. The results shows that the ages of the respondents ranged from 19 to 49 with a mean 28.5. Their occupation were farm produce selling (13.5%), trading (58.8%), and civil servants (16.3%). Also, full housewives among them were 11.3%. Only 62.2% of respondents had secondary education, the rest 35% and 2.5% were primary school holders and illiterates respectively. The religious believe of the respondents revealed that 63.8% were Christians and 36.3% Muslims. Also, 28.8% of the respondents were primigravid women. Questions on self medication practices reveled various views expressed by respondents. All (100%) of the respondents have heard about self medication while as much as 69 (86.3%) of them engage in it. When asked for reasons for engaging in self medication, 48% of them said it saves cost of health care, 23% believed valuable time in waiting in hospital are saved for other important endeavour while 33% believed drugs to buy were readily available. On the source of getting drugs in self medication, 20% said they got drugs from patent medicine sellers, another 20% got theirs from other non medical people while 30% got drug information from their fellow pregnant women and 10% got drugs from other unnamed sources. On the type of Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs they usually buy, 58% of respondent bought antimalarial, 35% bought anti typhoid and sulphonamides, while 45 bought sedatives. Other OTC drugs they bought include antihistamine(45%), antibiotics(46%). Even 67% bought injectable OTC whenever they desire it. Among the injectable bought were: chloroquine - 33%, analgin - 56%, pentazozin - 35%, morphine - 45%, gentamicin - 45%, heparin - 33%, iron dextran - 12%. Three hypotheses were tested and the results revealed that none of the age, religious and socio economic factors of the respondents has influence on the practice of self medication. In view of these findings, the researcher recommends that the regulations governing the use of drugs, especially antibiotics and teratogens, should be strictly enforced among pharmacists and patent medicine dealers to address indiscriminate administration of drugs to pregnant women.

KEYWORDS: Self Medication, Over- The-Counter Drugs, Antibiotics, Injectable

Received: Mar 28, 2016; **Accepted:** Apr 07, 2016; **Published:** Apr 18, 2016; **Paper Id.:** TJPRC:IJCMHNJUN20161