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Use of online questionnaires, social networks and messengers for quick collecting epidemiological data among young people

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Abstract

Background: Digitization of communications among young people involves social networks and messengers. These methods have become important channels for collecting health information.

Aim: To evaluate the effectiveness of online epidemiological surveys about antibiotic usage among young people by disseminating it through social networks and messengers.

Methods: We used the Google Forms online questionnaire to collect information about antibiotic usage among students of the medical university. Distributed was done through social networks and messengers such as Instagram and Telegram.

Results: Our study lasted for two weeks in December 2019. We received 508 answers from respondents, aged 17-25 years. Frequency of antibiotic usage during the last year was 6.3%(32) used antibiotics 4 times and more, 20.4% (103) – 2-3 times, 34.6% (175) – 1 time, 38.7% (196) did not receive antibiotics. Reasons for antibiotics use were fever at 46.5% (119) respondents, sore throat at 22.6% (58), cough at 14% (40), for prevention of infection at 2.8% (8). Azithromycin (40.2%), amoxicillin/clavulanate (36.4%), amoxicillin (35.4%) was the most commonly used antibiotics. Antibiotics were bought according to doctor's prescription by 72.2% (364) students, to their own decision by 22% (111), to pharmacist's advice 4% (20), to friend's advice by 1.8% (9).

Conclusions: Surveying young people using the online form by disseminating it through social networks and messengers is an effective method of conducting epidemiological data among this target audience.

Footnotes

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