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Exploring Dentists' Antibiotic Treatment Prescription Practices in Romandy, Switzerland

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Objectives Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) stands as a critical global health challenge due to the misuse and overuse of antibiotics. Dentists along with medical practitioners significantly contribute to this issue through their prescribing habits. This study aimed to explore the self-reported antibiotic prescription practices among dentists in the French-speaking region of Switzerland.

Methods An electronic questionnaire was sent to 331 dentists. Questions related to antibiotic prescription in various situations and procedures, solely focused on the healthy population, without any immunocompromised individuals or patients at risk for infective endocarditis. Responses were analyzed on a three-point Likert scale.

Results The response rate was 28%. The results highlighted that antibiotics were commonly prescribed for conditions such as abscesses with systemic symptoms (89%), cellulitis (81.5%), acute sinusitis (62%), and necrotizing periodontitis (52%). Notably, surgical procedures like sinus floor elevation (59.8%) and implant placement (60.9%) were frequently accompanied by antibiotic prescriptions. Amoxicillin emerged as the preferred antibiotic, with clindamycin being the alternative for patients allergic to penicillin (87%). A significant majority of participants (76.1%) expressed the need for more specific guidelines on the use of antibiotics use dentistry.

Conclusions The findings underscore the importance of implementing stricter protocols for antibiotic prescriptions in dental practice to effectively address the challenge of AMR.