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Evaluation of Knowledge on Antibiotics' Resistance in Undergraduate Dental Students in Albania

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Objectives Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) presents a global threat to public health. As dentists prescribe around 10% of all antibiotics commonly used, they are key stakeholders in combating AMR.

The objective of this study is to evaluate the awareness and knowledge of last year dental students about AMR.

It aims to find out if there is a need in having additional knowledge as a supplement teaching class. This might be beneficial to other generations of undergraduate students.

Methods In Albania, a cross-sectional study was conducted in one of the Dental Schools using a questionnaire with open questions involving the final year dental students. More specifically, participants were asked about their knowledge on the use of antibiotics, the way of prescribing them, the level of knowledge about antibiotics resistance, as well as the desire to strengthen their knowledge about the use of antibiotics and their impact on a national and global scale.

Results Engaging all healthcare professionals and including undergraduate students of Dentistry to raise awareness about AMR is vital. Sharing and spreading good practice in teaching on AMR is a key motive in Albania.

A total of 148 students completed the questionnaire. They showed good knowledge about the indications of antibiotics uses in oral and dental pathologies, general knowledge about AMR and the ways that their everyday work will affect resistant infections on dentistry. They expressed the need to learn more about the risks of both infections and antibiotics to patients in dental healthcare.

Conclusions Antimicrobial resistance is an increasing global concern, due to increased prescription and dispensing of antibiotic drugs, mostly in developing countries. Before graduation, students should receive complete information about this problem and ways of prevention. Students were positive about the addition of an extra education training to supplement university teaching. This approach may be beneficial for other undergraduate dentistry programs.