

Patterns and health-related etiologies of drug use among students of Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences

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Background and Aims: As one part of a comprehensive study, this survey was planned to identify list of drugs and medical reasons for their use among students of Kermanshah university of Medical Sciences.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted in 2011 among 350 students of Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences that randomly were selected from all faculties. Students were instructed & interviewed through an anonymous structured questionnaire having both open and closed questions. Data analyzed by SPSS 18 software and chi-square test were used for interpretation of association between variables.

Results: The most common medical reasons for self-medicated drug uses were: pain (36/3%), infectious diseases (31/7%), hair and skin disorders (9/6%) whereas hair and skin disorders (9/6%), infectious diseases (7.2%), gastrointestinal disorders (6/2%) were the most common health problems for prescribed use of drugs. Collectively, ibuprofen (29/7%), acetaminophen codeine (25/4%), acetaminophen (24/8%) and amoxicillin (24%) were the most consumed drugs. No significant relation was found between any of the demographic characteristics and drug consumption. ($P > 0/05$)

Conclusions: Medicational knowledge of healthcare students may have a role in the pattern of drug use among them. Finding out the related drug use algorithms can help to optimize their learning performances, attitudes and professional services.

Keywords: Drug use; University; Students; Kermanshah