

**Title: DO ANTIBIOTICS HEAL FLU?**

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**Abstract:**

A major challenge for health authorities is to reduce the selection of antimicrobial resistance genes in pathogenic bacteria. Uncontrolled prescriptions, antimicrobial residues in the environment and self-medication intensify the selection of resistance genes and limit therapeutic options. The lack of knowledge of the population about the risks of bacterial resistance and misuse of antimicrobials is pointed out by the WHO as one of the main factors that enhance this selection. In the Western Santa Catarina region an average of six reference biology textbooks in high school are adopted. The contents of these books do not articulate the kingdoms among each other and pay very little attention to the interactions between living beings so that students can better understand the phenomenon of bacterial resistance. Only three of these references address the issue of bacterial resistance and its risks to human health. Through lectures to graduating high school students and public school teachers it was aimed to extend knowledge about the phenomenon of bacterial resistance and the importance of the correct use of antibiotics. Methodologically, lectures articulated knowledge in microbiology so that young people could better understand the dynamic about the interrelationships between micro-organisms in the environment. For the evaluation of the results of actions the same questionnaire was applied on two occasions. The first was before the lecture and the second at the end. At first, 50.6% answered that antibiotics cured flu, while 49.4% gave a negative answer. After the lecture 99% of respondents said that antibiotics are not effective against flu. The results of the first stage seem satisfactory, but 79% responded to antibiotics act against viruses and bacteria, and 12.6% which are effective against viruses. In the second stage 6% answered that antibiotics control virus and 77% understood that these drugs are effective against bacterial infections. The activities carried out with students and basic education teachers achieved their goals. They also collaborated with the World Health Organization recommendations on alerting the population through education about the risks of selection and dissemination of bacterial genes due to the overuse of antibiotics.

**Key words:** antibiotics, bacterial resistance to antimicrobials, knowledge