

AN INDEPENDENT STUDY ABOUT OVER THE COUNTER MEDICINES TO ANALYSE PARENTS' AWARENESS FOR PAEDIATRIC USE

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Objectives:

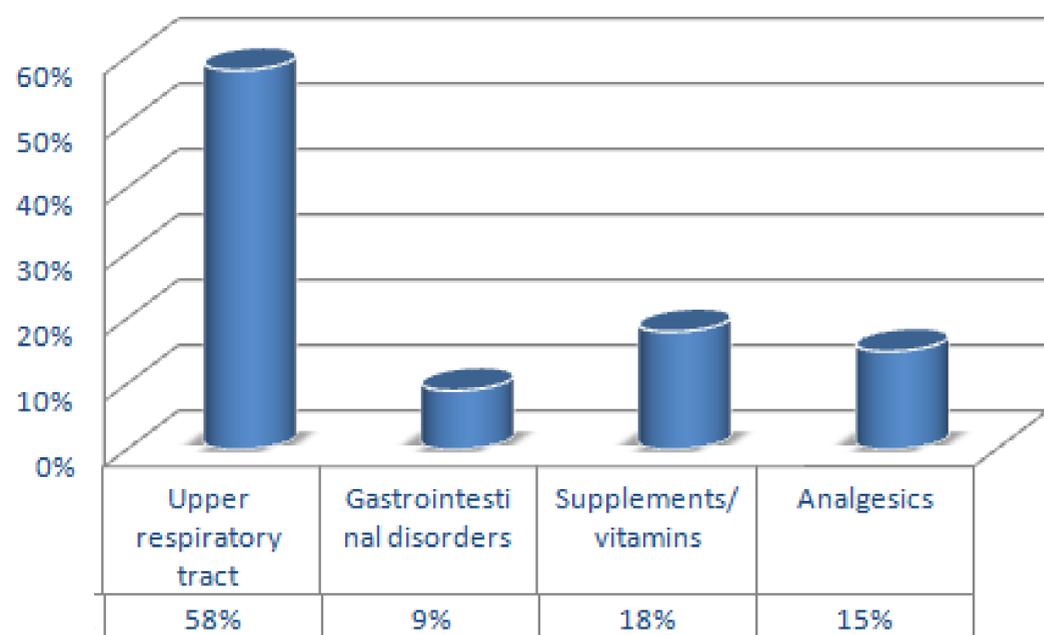
Our multidisciplinary team (1 clinical pharmacist, 2 paediatricians, 1 researcher) aimed to analyse the use of Over the counter medicines (OTCms) in the paediatric population in Italy, as they are widely employed in paediatrics but their conditions of use are difficult to monitor. Moreover, even though several studies have been conducted in the USA and Australia, data are lacking in our country. We focused on self-medication habits, typology of medications and parents' awareness about the potential drug interactions (DIs) and adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

Results:

50 questionnaires collected

Question Subject	Results
Parent interviewed	Mothers: 96% Fathers: 4%
Mean age of parents	Mothers: 38 year (range 20-51) Fathers: 41 years (range 30-55)
Mean children number	1,66 (range 1-5)
Mean children age	6,21 years (17 days-16 years)
Use of OTCms in the paediatric population	Yes : 78% No : 22%
Source of advice	Self-medication: 16% Paediatrician advice: 59% Pharmacist advice: 25%
ADR reporting to the paediatrician or to the pharmacist after OTCms use	Yes: 76% No: 24%
Awareness of DIs and ADRs	Yes: 72% Sometimes: 24% No: 4%
Advertisement influence	Yes: 31% No: 69%
Time of OTCms' inefficacy reporting to paediatrician	2-3 days: 65% >5 days: 35%

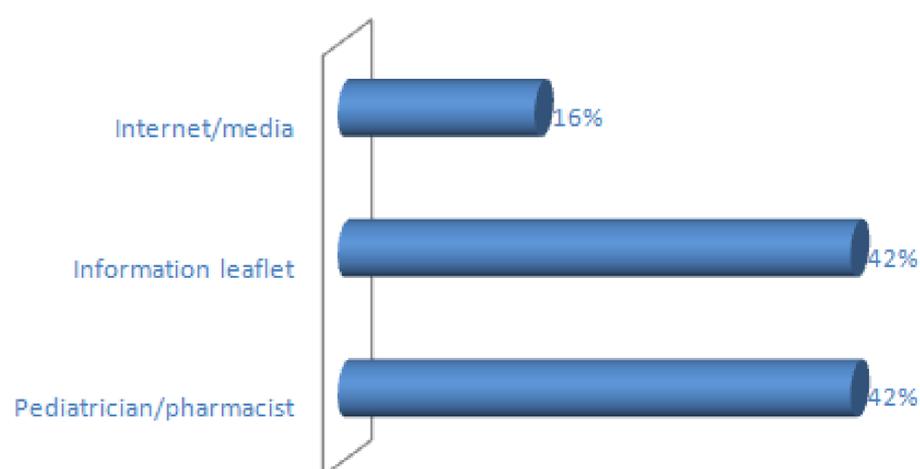
OTCms classes most used



Material and methods:

We conducted a 4 week prospective study by survey through a questionnaire delivered to parents waiting for a paediatric visit in a medical practice office. Questions (n = 18) concerned: social and cultural overview, type of OTCms utilised, self-medication use attitude, drug characteristics, impact of advertisements, knowledge and awareness of the possibility of DIs, inefficacy or ADRs. We excluded antipyretics from the analysis because they were already extensively studied to be universally the most used OTCms among all ages.

Source of advice about DIs and ADRs



Conclusion:

Parents were aware about the possibility of ADRs and DIs of OTCms. Although the data showed that the parent-paediatrician relationship was important to address the use of OTCms for the children, some parents were influenced by advertisements. An improvement in the study is planned by increasing the number of interviewed parents and the level of detail.