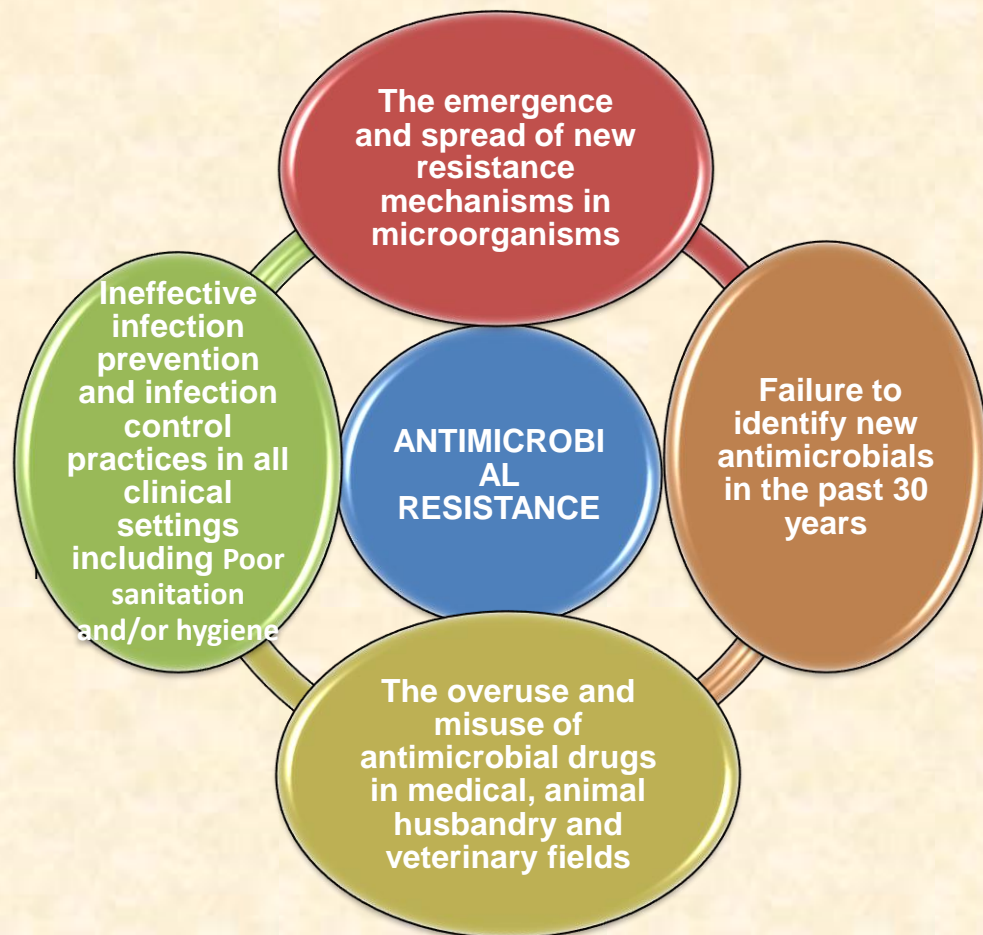


Evaluation of knowledge and perceptions of final year nursing students towards antimicrobial resistance: A pilot project

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Background

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major patient safety issue that threatens the effective prevention and treatment of a wide range of infections caused by various microorganisms (WHO, 2018). Additionally, the health consequence of AMR is compounded by several factors (Figure 1) such as limited discovery of new antibiotics within the last three decades (Department of Health and Social Care, 2019). A key intervention to reduce AMR is improving professional education, training and public engagement (Department of Health and Social Care, 2019). The Global Action Plan on AMR also recommended improved awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance (WHO, 2018).

Aim

The aim of the study was to evaluate the knowledge and perceptions of 3rd (final) year undergraduate adult branch nursing students towards AMR.

Method

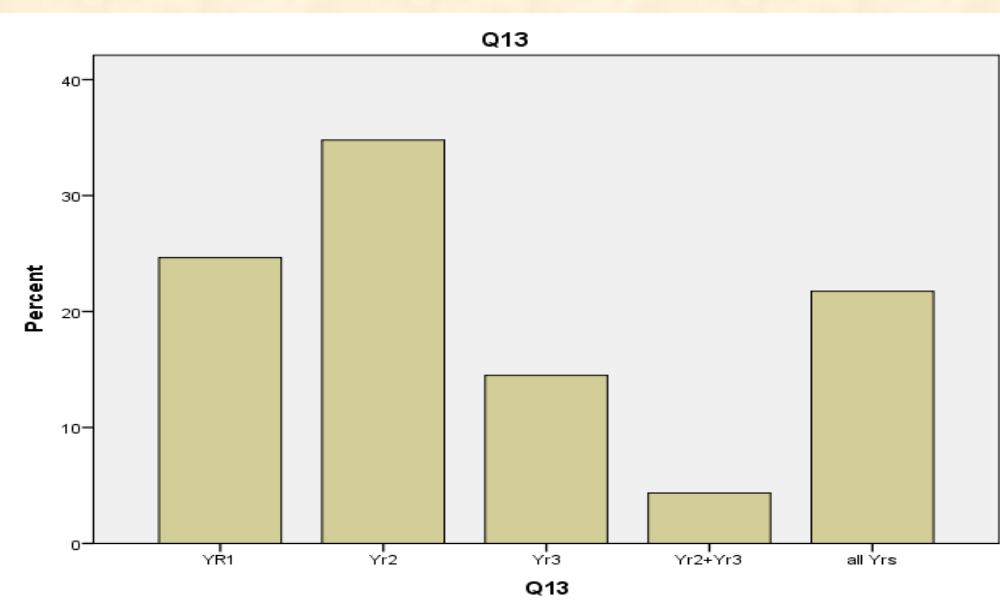
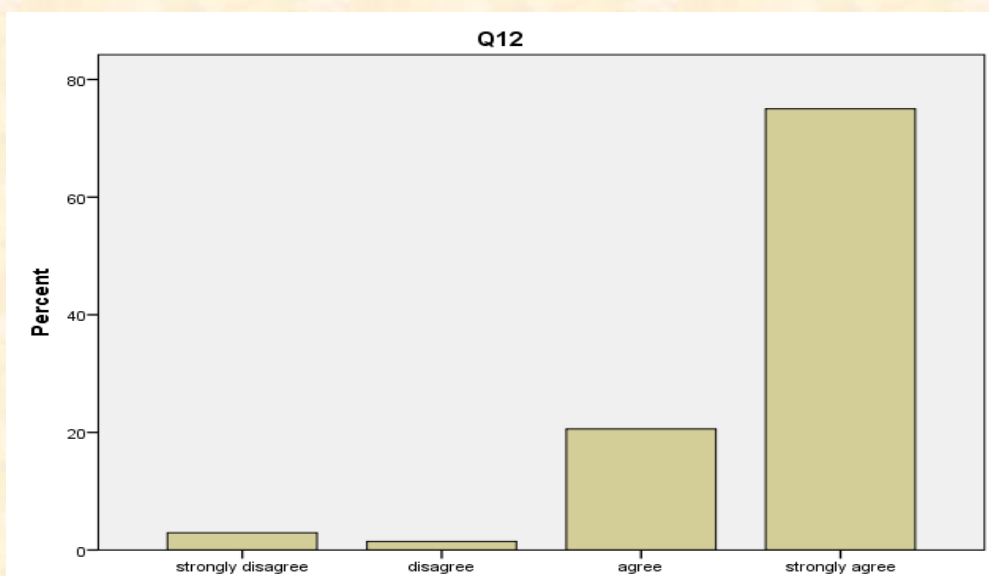
Ethical approval was obtained from the University Ethics committee. A purposive sample of 69 students in the University of West London gave their feedback by completing a paper questionnaire between July and October 2018.

Results

Almost three-quarter (n51: 74%) agree that inappropriate use of antibiotics causes antibiotics resistance while almost half of the respondents (n30: 43%) disagree that poor hand hygiene by healthcare workers can cause the spread of antibiotics resistance. Nearly all the students (n65: 94%) supported further AMR education (Figure 2) and at different stages of their course (Figure 3). Also, a quarter of the respondents (n17: 25%) disagree that antibiotics are overused in the UK.

Conclusion

The study revealed some misunderstandings about the causes of AMR and there was a strong interest in receiving additional education on AMR. The results were consistent with the findings of few previous studies and suggest the need to provide additional training for student nurses. To strengthen our preliminary findings, a further study using mixed method approach of a larger sample size comprising different branches of nursing and midwifery students is recommended.



References

- WHO (2018) Antimicrobial resistance: Key facts. Available at <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antimicrobial-resistance> (Accessed 16/03/19)
- Department of Health and Social; Care (2019) Tackling antimicrobial resistance 2019-2024 The UK's five-year national action plan. Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/784894/UK_AMR_5_year_national_action_plan.pdf (Accessed 16/03/19).

