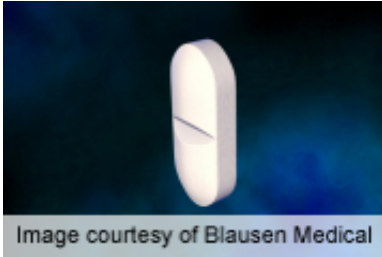


Inappropriate use of antibiotics in ERs remains high for adults

31 January 2014



(HealthDay)—For patients presenting to the emergency department with acute respiratory tract infections (ARTI), inappropriate utilization of antibiotics has decreased for children, but not for adults, according to a study published online Dec. 16 in *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*.

John P. Donnelly, M.S.P.H., from University of Alabama at Birmingham, and colleagues conducted a retrospective study involving patients presenting to emergency departments with ARTIs from 2001 to 2010 identified from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. Diagnoses of otitis media, sinusitis, pharyngitis, tonsillitis, and nonviral pneumonia were designated as antibiotic appropriate; while nasopharyngitis, unspecified upper [respiratory tract infection](#), bronchitis or bronchiolitis, [viral pneumonia](#), and influenza were considered antibiotic inappropriate.

The researchers found that antibiotics were prescribed in 61 percent of the 126 million [emergency department](#) visits for ARTI. From 2001 to 2010, there was a decrease in antibiotic utilization among patients aged

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