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THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ANTIMICROBIAL SHORTAGES IN ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMMES

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Background and importance:

An inadequate antimicrobial prescription is often associated with a rising in these costs and because of that, the antimicrobial stewardship program (ASP) includes an absolute reduction of 9% in antimicrobial costs.

Aim and objectives:

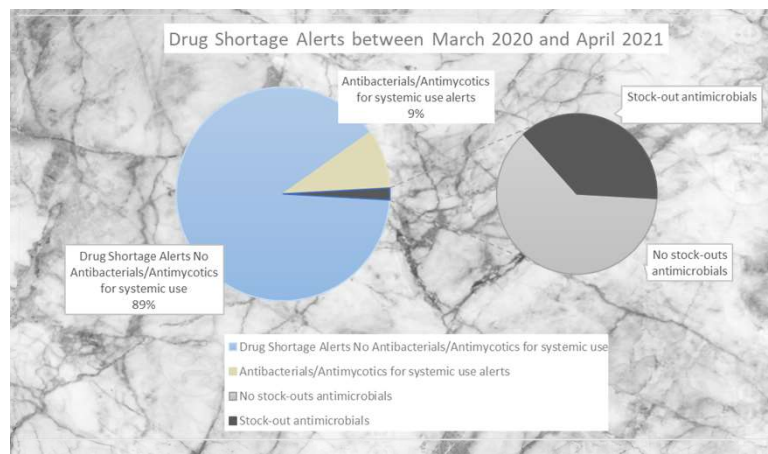
To describe the economic impact of antimicrobial shortages in a hospital ASP

Material and methods:

Descriptive, observational study. It included all drug shortage alerts published in the Spanish Agency of Medicines between March 2020 and April 2021. An analysis was performed for the drug alerts belonging to J01 and J02 groups:

- Current stock-outs in the hospital, stock-outs periods (days) and therapeutic alternatives (TA) of these drugs were recorded
- Expenditure description was performed comparing antimicrobials affected by stock-outs with the TA, using the ratio cost/defined daily dose (DDD)

Results:



ANTIMICROBIAL AFFECTED	STOCK-OUTS PERIOD (DAYS)	RATIO COST/DDD (€)	THERAPEUTIC ALTERNATIVE	RATIO COST/DDD (€)	INCREMENTAL EXPENDITURE PER DDD (€)	NUMBER OF DDD IN STOCK-OUTS PERIOD	INCREMENTAL EXPENDITURE (€)
ANIDULAFUNGIN	9	52.3	CASPOFUNGIN	51.01	-1.29	104.8	-135.19
VORICONAZOL	31	20.72	LIPOSOMAL AMPHOTERICIN B	56.66	35.94	69.67	2,503.94
CEFTOLOZANE/TAZOBACTAM	108	264.54	CEFTAZIDIME/AVIBACTAM	268.38	3.84	778	2,987.52
						TOTAL	5,356.27

3% of total antimicrobial expenditure

Conclusion and relevance

Antimicrobial shortages often force to prescribe other drugs for the treatment of infectious diseases, which can result in expenditure increases. These problems tend to reduce the impact of the pharmacists' ASP activity in the hospital, which has shown to be an effective solution in optimizing antimicrobial treatments.