

Moderator: what types of antifungal drugs do you have in your store currently?

Respondent: there is fluconazole tablet. Turbinaphine cream and tablet has been here. But now it's not here anymore it's out of stock. Previously it was available. Clotrimazole cream and tablet and also the ketoconazole cream is available.

Moderator: when was the last time it was available?

Respondent: it was before six month.

Moderator: among these which one is commonly used by the people?

Respondent: when you see the Turbinaphine is more advantageous and has less side effect. But due to the availability issue we use the clotrimazole cream and also the price is cheap and we have different brands. We have candazole, candid, generally clotrimazole all of them are cheap. And also we have fluconazole and it's also cheap. But because of the availability we use only the clotrimazole and fluconazole.

Moderator: you have raised the issue of the cost being cheap and less side effect, is there any other reason other than this? Why they prefer it?

Respondent: additionally we have the griseofulvin tablet. They use it for 45 days and the terbinafine is only used for 15 days. The side effect is also lesser. If the terbinafine is available the doctor will also prefer that. Due to the side effect and the duration of the treatment.

Moderator: what kind of side effect do you see?

Respondent: one thing the taste is bitter especially for the children. And they don't like it. The terbinafine is kind of tasteless.

Moderator: where do you get these drugs the source of your drugs?

Respondent: there are supplier like PFSA and if PFSA stock out there are other supplier like by the bid or tender. There are different suppliers.

Moderator: who will recommend these drugs is it the physician or the patient? Can the patient get the drug without prescription?

Respondent: in the first place we will communicate with the physician and tell them the available drugs? After that the physician will prescribe the drug for the patient but the patient can't choose the drug by themselves.

Moderator: do you have any challenges regarding the drug accessibility, availability, affordability and policy issue?

Respondent: which drug?

Moderator: any of the drugs.

Respondent: the policy issue is the great challenge because the tender or the bid for the pharmaceuticals is not different from the other like for 45 days and more longer so this is a big challenge because pharmaceutical issue is just a life issue. If the drug is available at the PFSA it's easy to get it but if not the process of the tender or the bid will take a very long time. For the finance department. So there is policy problem.

Moderator: so what will happen if you don't have the drug in your stock do the physicians prescribe the drug to buy it from the private pharmacies?

Respondent: if that drug is not available in our pharmacy the patient will look out for the drug in private pharmacies.

Moderator: do the patients pay in your hospital for the cost of the antifungals?

Respondent: in our hospital some patients are not charged. But, if they will go to the private market they will be charged for that.

Moderator: is there any antifungal drug produced in Ethiopia that you are using?

Respondent: I think am not sure. I hope fluconazole is produced here in Ethiopia.

Moderator: do you know if some people use these drugs for their animal purpose?

Respondent: I am not sure. I don't know.

Moderator: is there anything you recognize out of these picture? Does it occur here?

Respondent: am not sure but these two.

Moderator: do you know how to treat them?

Respondent: they treat this one with griseofulvin and ketoconazole shampoo. But am not 100% sure. If the terbinafine is available they prefer that for this one. And for the other fluconazole and terbinafine also.

Moderator: do you know they have good result for this ones?

Respondent: for both of them if the terbinafine is available they do show great change. But fluconazole it's difficult the duration is like three month after that they confirm there is a change.

Moderator: because it has such a long time for treatment do you have any complaint from the patient?

Respondent: I didn't hear that. Because if they use that appropriately there will be a change. I didn't hear any complaint from the patient.

Moderator: has there been any signs of resistance to the medication you have from the patient?

Respondent: now a days I didn't hear resistance for the antifungals but for the antibiotics there is a resistance.

Moderator: how do you think that the physicians choose which antifungal to use? Do you know what persuades them? Is it other physician? Or is it what they know works? Or advertisement for example?

Respondent: advertisement has its' own effect but they prescribe based on availability. The promoters will come with different brands of the antifungals and also that matters the prescription. But they mostly prefer the available drugs.

Moderator: and the promotion is that private company that comes to promote?

Respondent: yes. They are the private company.

Moderator: how often do they come? Once a year or once a month?

Respondent: every two months.

Moderator: you mentioned about the side effect for the patients earlier? Do you know the side effect for the peoples who administer the drug?

Respondent: I am not sure. I haven't heard about the other side effect.

Moderator: do you know any of these infection transmitted from the animals, how people develop it? Do you know if it can be transmitted among the family of multiple numbers? Or is it only single case?

Respondent: I didn't hear that. First the physician will come to the pharmacy, then the patient will come. Sometime the exact patients are not coming one of the family of the patients are coming with the prescription and we will dispense the drug according to the medication. We will give the information on how they will follow the whole course of the drug.

Moderator: if the physician prescribe the drug for three month do you give the whole course at one time or do they have to return here?

Respondent: the physician will most of the time prescribe for two month and if they do that we will give the whole course at one time. Because most of the time the patient will come from the rural areas and they can't return here.

Moderator: do you have anything to tell us any problem or challenge you are facing regarding the antifungal problems?

Respondent: currently it's the problem of availability.

Moderator: do you have any idea how that can be improved?

Respondent: I think now a days it's the currency problem. I recommend to improve the policies wich will help the pharmaceuticals to be developed. The logistics and the process will take a very long time so that will be difficult. Since we are dealing with people's lives.