

Moderator: feel free to tell us about data. Don't worry about the security of the data [...this will be kept confidential]. What type of antifungal drug do you have in your pharmacy can you list them?

Respondent: there are number of antifungal drugs in our compound, there are injected antifungal drugs, topical antifungal drugs. We have ketoconazole, turbinaphine and fluconazole tablet form. And we also have the turbinaphine cream. Topical antifungal drug: isoconazole. And the injected one amphotericin is also available. Fluconazole suspension and fluconazole IV infusions are available. Since this institution is a dermatological institution, we use most of the time topical preparations like clotrimazole and miconazole.

Moderator: Among these drugs wich one is mostly used by the people, when you prioritize them, which one is the most used?

Respondent: the common one are the topical and oral antifungal the most prescribed. Ketoconazole and isoconazole. The most common one are isoconazole and fluconazole.

Moderator: do you know why the people prefer them? or you recommend them than the other?

Respondent: the very reason is the accessibility issue. Clotrimazole and fluconazole are widely available here. The other one is the effect of promotion and advertisement. There are drug promoters, from the companies and they do that to physicians.

Moderator: do they promote the drug to the public or to the physicians?

Respondent: they promote to the physicians. There are also antifungal clotrimazole powder.

Moderator: where do you get the drugs?

Respondent: we have two option to get the drugs. The first one is the tender and the second one is the PFSA. So this agency will supply drug to different government bodies. That is to increase accessibility of the medication. When some of these drugs are not available in the government institution we will go and look for in the private markets or private supplier.

Moderator: For what cases do you prescribe or recommend this drug?

Respondent: the most common case is cryptococcal infection. There are around 8000 active patients here. There are TB patients. And we give for the cryptococcal infection case the injectable and oral antifungals. We will also use topical antifungal drugs. The institution one of those working on the management of TB.

Moderator: for what disease type you prescribe the topical antifungal drug?

Respondent: I don't remember.

Moderator: who will recommend these drug or do the doctors prescribe? Or can anybody come and get the drug from here?

Respondent: the procedure is just there are physicians at the clinical pharmacy. The OPDs, for dermatological case we prescribe topical antifungals. For the wards or the admitted patients, the clinical pharmacist will prescribe or recommend drugs. Without prescription we are not going to dispense.

Moderator: do you have any challenge regarding the accessibility, availability, affordability and also the policy?

Respondent: regarding the policy issue there is no problem. Regarding the accessibility there is a problem and affordability. There is no sustainable accessibility of these drug so sometime it will be challenging to get the drugs. It will be out of stock for some other long period of time. And it is so difficult to control such kind of variation. The main challenge is accessibility. And the drugs that we stock in from the private market there is issue of affordability. The drugs that we stock in from the government agencies like the PFSA, it's at lower price. It's reasonable. But the drugs from the private market are expensive and can't be afforded.

Moderator: what portion of your drug you think you have to get from the private market? Is it 50% or more or less?

Respondent: 60 to 65% is from the public the government agencies and the other is from the private market.

Moderator: did you come across the person who use these drugs for their animal treatment purpose?

Respondent: I didn't came across that.

Moderator: are you familiar with these disease?

Respondent: yes.

Moderator: is it very common?

Respondent: the nail infection is the most common.

Moderator: how would you treat that one?

Respondent: by using systemic antifungal drugs like fluconazole. This one is also common and can be treated with topical antifungal drugs. This one is also common.

Moderator: how do you treat that?

Respondent: we recommend the antifungal shampoo.

Moderator: do you have good result with those treatment? Do it treat well?

Respondent: yes.

Moderator: do you ever see cases like this?

Respondent: I think I haven't.

Moderator: because sometimes people see this fungal and TB infection looks very similar. So kind of how you treat is interesting? How do you treat long fungal infection?

Respondent: I think it's by parenteral antifungal like fluconazole.

Moderator: is there any side effect with the people taking the treatment?

Respondent: if it's taken for a long period of time at a higher dose it may cause liver function problem. And the topical one's they don't have as such side effect.

Moderator: do you have to treat for long time with the systemic one? If you need to?

Respondent: it might take up to three months.

Moderator: how about for the people administering the drug is there any risks for them? Or they are quite safe to handle from your point of view? The Doctors and the pharmacist?

Respondent: I think there is no risk.

Moderator: is there anything you want to tell me about antifungal medication? Or any problems you have? Or anyway you like to see the situation change?

Respondent: most of the time our common problem is the issue of accessibility and availability. Once the patient have started to follow the medication the drug might not be available to finish the dosage. Because of the accessibility problem.

Moderator: how often that happens? What percentage of that case is hard?

Respondent: about one fourth of the cases struggle to complete the courses.

Moderator: are there other reason why they might not complete the course other than the availability of the drug?

Respondent: one of the main problem with the patient is if the medication is for long period of time, and if they get recovered in between the course they may then will not be finishing the whole courses.

Moderator: will they get all of the antifungal medication from this hospital or do they have to go to elsewhere?

Respondent: we can send them home with the full course, if the medication is available or we have enough stock. Some of the patient will not return back to get the medication of the whole course. They assume that they are cured without finishing the whole course. And the problem might aggravate.

Moderator: do you know any antifungal medications manufactured in Ethiopia?

Respondent: some of the antifungals are produced here. Like the fluconazole tablet produced at the [company name]. Griseofulvin produced at [company name] and the climatrazole cream.

Moderator: do you know what affects their availability? If it's produced here why do you think it's not available?

Respondent: as to my opinion it's the issue of currency. When they have that they will produce and supply to market. But if there is shortage of the currency it will stop because they can't buy the raw materials.

Moderator: do you have any suggestion to solve these problems?

Respondent: it's better to manufacture the drug here in Ethiopia because it will reduce the cost. And also it can increase the accessibility of the drug. If it's produced in local market it can increase the availability of the drug.

Moderator: do you know any issues of resistance regarding the antifungal medication?

Respondent: I think they are effective.

Moderator: Do you have any question for us?

Respondent: No.