Reviewer's report

Title: Comparing antibiotic self-medication in two socio-economic groups in Guatemala City: a cross-sectional study

Version: 3 Date: 25 October 2014

Reviewer: Dr. Shehnaz Ilyas

Reviewer's report:

The research article deals with the prevalence of self-medicated antibiotics among two socio-economic groups in Guatemala City. In this era of rapid antibiotic resistance, there is a need for such a study from all regions of the developing world. The article is extremely well written and comprehensive. However, it could benefit from some amendments:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The conclusion in the abstract (lines 49-52 page 2) cannot be derived from the results. It is suggested to include the data about the similarities and differences between the two groups in the Results section.

The time period of the self-medication practice is not specified in the methodology. As this influences the prevalence rates, it is essential to ascertain this.

Though the methodology is well explained, the validity and reliability of the questionnaire has not been commented upon. A more detailed description of the data collection tool will be welcomed. What about the operational definition of self-medication and antibiotics in the questionnaire? Were all the participants clear about what constitutes self-medication? Were the antibiotics specified by trade name or generic names? Were the respondents allowed multiple choices for each statement or single choice? The data about reading the drug labels has been included in the results. However, this is not mentioned in the questionnaire details.

How was the prevalence of self-medication calculated?

Minor essential revisions:

Abstract: Lines 21, 22 on Page 2: it is recommended to give expansion of the abbreviation.

The rest of the abstract and the article are quite well written.

The Background gives a very elaborate and good justification of investigating research outcomes. It is suggested to include the reference for statement 113-114 page 5.

The discussion elaborates the recent research done on this topic and provides valid comparisons between other studies and the currently derived data.

In all the Tables and the manuscript, it is being recommended that the significant
p values can be highlighted rather than adding another column with all p values. The correctness and citation style of the References needs to be looked into e.g.: Ref 14.

In general most of the references are recent. However, Ref 6, 7 and 20 are quite old and can be replaced with other recent studies.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests