

KNOWLEDGE THAT UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION RESOLVES ON ITS OWN IS ASSOCIATED WITH MORE APPROPRIATE HEALTH-SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AND ANTIBIOTIC COGNITION

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the article entitled “Knowledge that upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) resolves on its own is associated with more appropriate health-seeking behaviour and antibiotic cognition”⁽¹⁾. Tan et al found expected results that knowledge of self-limiting nature of URTI is associated with self-medication for symptomatic relief only. I feel that more focus should be placed on increasing the public’s awareness about the benign nature of diseases like URTI. To this end, I would like to emphasise that it is important for policy makers and government/private healthcare agencies to increase public awareness through widely-used media like TV, radio or drama. Since audiovisual stimuli have instant and long-lasting impact, it can easily and efficiently disseminate the necessary message. Thus inappropriate antibiotic use with its negative implications and unnecessary visits to doctors can be prevented.

Yours sincerely,

Binay Kumar Shah

Department of Medicine
Long Island College Hospital
339 Hicks Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
USA
Email: binay.shah@gmail.com

REFERENCES

1. Tan YSL, Hong CY, Chong PN, et al. Knowledge that upper respiratory tract infection resolves on its own is associated with more appropriate health-seeking behaviour and antibiotic cognition. Singapore Med J 2006; 47:518-24.