Reason for antimicrobial prescription

- To describe the use of antimicrobials, especially for AOM among pre-school children in selected, well-defined communities.
- To describe potential links between antimicrobial treatment for AOM, socio-demographic factors and parental views on the use of antimicrobials.
- To describe the use of tympanostomy tube placements and possible association with the use of antimicrobials among children.

Antimicrobial Use, Acute Otitis Media and Tympanostomy Tube Placements Among Pre-School Children in Iceland

Background for a study of acute otitis media (AOM) in relation to antimicrobial use in Iceland

AOM is the most common diagnosis (30-65%) leading to antimicrobial prescription for children in the Western world. Nevertheless, antimicrobial treatment of AOM is debatable. Restrictive policy in antimicrobial use is supported by the documented link between high consumption of antimicrobials and the development of antimicrobial resistance among common pathogens in the community.

Specific aims

- To describe the use of antimicrobials, especially for AOM among pre-school children in selected, well-defined communities.
- To describe potential links between antimicrobial treatment for AOM, socio-demographic factors and parental views on the use of antimicrobials.
- To describe the use of tympanostomy tube placements and possible association with the use of antimicrobials among children.

Conclusions

- The number of antimicrobial courses prescribed to pre-school children, especially for AOM, diminished markedly in some study areas, indicating that in areas where the prescription rate is high, GPs prescribe broad-spectrum antimicrobials relatively more often than narrow-spectrum antimicrobials.
- Antimicrobial drug (over)use for AOM may be associated with future episodes of AOM and tympanostomy tube placements.
- Parents’ expectations of antimicrobial prescriptions for common colds were associated with the doctor’s handling of upper respiratory tract infections.