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**Knowledge and behavior of Saudi female university students towards self-medication**

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**Background:** Self-medication is considered a fairly common practice worldwide. A recent study in the UK showed that an estimated of 20% of the population choose to self-diagnose themselves versus seeking medical advice. It has a harmful side, since it might lead to wasting of resources, development resistance, drugs reactions or dependency, misdiagnosis, accidental overdoses and addiction development.

**Objectives & Methods:** To estimate prevalence of self-medication among university students, determine the population background, assess the most common symptoms and most commonly used drug categories and analyze the population experience with self-medication and health care services. Cross-sectional based study conducted to university students aged 18-26 through a self administered questionnaire to collect the data from all college students with no exception over six months.

**Results:** A total sample size of 500 students, their mean age was from 25-21, most of them were from science faculty 191 (38.8%), bachelor level of education was the most 416 (83.2%), single students made the mass of the study 461 (92.2%). A 413 (82.6%) of total 500 have tried self-medication, 189(37.8%) choose drugs, most common used was Analgesic 227(45.4%), the most frequent symptoms was stomach pain and headache 150 (30%), 145 (29%) took the medication from their relatives, there was illness improvement among most of them 363 (72.6%), while least 21(4.2%) went to ER due to it. Most of the responses regarding health care system were positive.

**Conclusion:** We found that self-medication practice is highly prevalent in our university, even though most results of their treatment was improving, the 4% who went to ER is enough indicator that this act is dangerous and thus we need to do more awareness activities regarding it.

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