

Usage of Antibiotics in Complicated and Recurrent Urinary Tract Infection

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Abstract: Recurrent UTIs (urinary tract infections) are highly prevalent in post-menopausal women and also in patients with underlying abnormalities of the urinary tract similar to complicated UTI. A prospective study was conducted in out-patient department of Urology in Osmania General Hospital to assess the pattern of antimicrobial drugs use and the criteria for selection of Antimicrobial drugs in recurrent and complicated UTIs in 200 subjects of age group 18-80 years of either sex. The subjects were monitored one week after treatment completion, for any relapse or recurrence, to assess the treatment response, or for any adverse drug reactions. The data collected were analyzed by using descriptive statistics analyzed by SPSS software. Most of the gram negative pathogens were sensitive to piperacillin-tazobactam and Aminoglycosides and the gram positive pathogens for vancomycin and linezolid. The Antimicrobial drugs were used empirically in most of the subjects as monotherapy mainly by intravenous route, the most frequently used Antimicrobial drugs for initial therapy were Fluoroquinolones and beta-lactams, the mean duration of therapy being 9.2±2.2 days. The frequently used combinations were beta-lactams + Aminoglycosides, beta-lactams + nitroimidazoles, FQ + beta-lactams/nitroimidazoles. Most of the subjects showed good clinical and bacteriological improvement even with empirical therapy.

Keywords: Recurrent urinary tract infections, complicated urinary tract infections, Antimicrobial drugs

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I. Introduction

Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) is an infection in the urinary tract. UTIs are one of the most prevalent infectious diseases in general population, occurring in either community or hospital settings. UTIs are associated with significant morbidity, particularly in hospitals and cause substantial burden in terms of health care cost and resources.[1]

UTI is the most common disease encountered in medical practice affecting people of all ages from the neonate to the geriatric age group. Worldwide, about 150 million people are diagnosed with UTI each year. The inappropriate use of antimicrobial agents and the spread of bacterial resistance among microorganisms cause drug resistance in urinary tract infections. The emergence of antibiotic resistance in the management of UTIs is a serious public health issue.[2]

UTIs can be asymptomatic or symptomatic. Symptomatic UTIs can be uncomplicated, complicated or recurrent UTIs. Unlike uncomplicated UTIs which occur in an otherwise healthy host, complicated UTIs are characterized by structural or functional abnormalities of the genitourinary tract, or the presence of underlying diseases which increase the risk of acquiring an infection or of failure of therapy.[3]

Recurrent UTIs refers to ≥ 3 episodes of UTI in previous 12 months or ≥ 2 episodes in previous 6 months.[4]

Recurrent UTIs and complicated UTI are a major cause of hospital admissions and also account for a large number of hospital-acquired infections since most of the inpatients have higher baseline risk[5].

Complicated UTIs usually involve a broader spectrum of pathogens (e.g. E.coli, Proteus, Klebsiella, Enterobacter, Staphylococcus, Enterococcus, Pseudomonas or fungi) which are often multidrug resistant and frequently subjecting the host to antibiotic use and cross-infections[6].

Principal aspects of management include antimicrobial therapy along with treatment / control of underlying complicating risk factors and supportive care. Several classes of Antimicrobial drugs are used empirically or definitively, either for treatment or prophylaxis, namely Fluoroquinolones, Penicillins with or without Beta-lactam inhibitors, Cephalosporins, Aminoglycosides, cotrimoxazole, nitrofurantoin etc[5,6].

Selection of Antimicrobial drugs, the route of administration, dose, frequency and duration of administration, is based on severity of infection, prevalent uropathogens, local resistance patterns, patient specific factors (complicating factor), and the tolerability, pharmacokinetic profile and the cost effectiveness. However, selection of appropriate therapy for recurrent UTI or complicated UTI can be challenging to the clinicians since these infections involve

broader spectrum of drug resistant pathogens with unpredictable and changing susceptibility patterns, evolving antimicrobial resistance, the patient associated risk factors, high likelihood of persistence of infection, the need for longer duration of therapy and treatment failure. Urinary tract infection (UTI) is a disease that is observed frequently in children and the elderly (>65 yr) [7,8,9].

An appropriate antibiotic is chosen according to the following cardinal criteria—Patient's individual risk and previous antibiotic treatment, Pathogen spectrum and antibiotic sensitivity, effectiveness of the antimicrobial agent, effects on the resistance situation in the patient and ecological effects and undesired drug effects. [10]

Although various antimicrobial regimens involving different classes of Antimicrobial drugs, differing doses and duration have been used, the existing data still remains inconsistent and cannot be generalized due to variation in pattern of antimicrobial susceptibility/resistance and prevailing uropathogens over a period of time in different geographical areas and from hospital to hospital. There is a need for periodic evaluation of the pattern of antimicrobial use, criteria for selection, their efficacy and tolerability in the management of complicated and recurrent UTIs.

The present study is done to assess the pattern of antimicrobial use in recurrent and complicated UTIs in patients in our hospital and to assess the criteria for selection of Antimicrobial drugs.

1.1 Aims and objectives of the study

- To assess the pattern of antimicrobial use in patients with recurrent and complicated Urinary Tract Infection.
- To assess the criteria for selection of Antimicrobial drugs in patients with recurrent and complicated Urinary Tract Infection.

II. Patients And Methods

This prospective study was done to assess the pattern of antimicrobial drugs use in recurrent and complicated Urinary Tract Infections in subjects and to assess the criteria for selection of Antimicrobial drugs.

2.1 Site of the study: Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad.

2.2 Study period: The study was carried out between 10/2015 to 10/2016

2.3 Sampling

Purposive sampling involving 200 consecutive subjects with recurrent and complicated UTIs in Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad and receiving Antimicrobial drugs, were included in the study.

2.4 Selection criteria

Inclusion criteria:

- Subjects in the age group of 18-80 years from either gender with recurrent or complicated UTIs.
- Willing to give written informed consent and available for further follow-up.

Exclusion Criteria:

- Subjects with asymptomatic bacteriuria.
- Pregnant and lactating women & age <18 and >80.
- Subjects admitted in Intensive Care Unit.
- Not willing to participate in the study.

III. Methodology

After obtaining approval and clearance from the Institutional Ethics Committee, subjects of either gender aged between 18 to 80 years and receiving Antimicrobial drugs for recurrent and complicated UTIs were included for the study. Written informed consent was obtained from the patients/legal representatives after fully explaining in their own language to their satisfaction.

The clinical history relevant to UTIs, associated complicating risk factors, co morbid illness and drug history were documented. The laboratory data including urine microscopy and culture sensitivity/resistance pattern are also recorded.

The Antimicrobial drug combinations used, the criteria for selection, dose, route, frequency and duration of administration and any change in antimicrobial drug therapy was recorded. The concomitant medications for the co morbid conditions were also recorded. The efficacy of antimicrobial drug therapy was assessed by treatment outcome based on clinical and bacteriological criteria.

All the relevant data were entered and documented in case record form.

3.1 Laboratory investigations & microbiological investigations:

Urine microscopy.

Urine culture and antimicrobial susceptibility tests.

3.2 Hematological:

Hb%, TC, DC, ESR.

3.3 Biochemical:

Renal function tests: Blood Urea Serum creatinine.

3.4 Imaging studies done (If any):

Ultrasonography- Abdomen and pelvicregion, X-RAY-KUB.

CT Scan-Abdomen and pelvicregion.

3.5 Follow-up

The subjects were monitored to assessthe treatmentresponse,andtolerabilityofAntimicrobial drugs. Thesubjectswereadvisedtovisitthe OPDs oneweekaftertreatment completion,foranyrelapseorrecurrence, orforany delayed adverse drugreactions.

3.6 Statistical analysis

The data collected were analyzed by using descriptive statistics, namelymean and standard deviation for quantitative variables analysed by SPSS software wherever necessary, theresultswere depicted in the form of percentages with tables and graphs. Microsoft Wordand Excel were used to generate graphs andtables.

IV. Observations And Results

Table1:Age and genderdistribution(n=200)

Agegroup(years)	Male		Female		Total
	N	%	n	%	
18-25	2	2	8	8	10
26-35	6	7	12	11	18
36-45	14	16	20	18	34
46-55	22	25	34	30	56
56-65	44	50	38	34	84
Total	88	100	112	100	200

Mean age: Male=53±11.7; Female=48.4±12.7

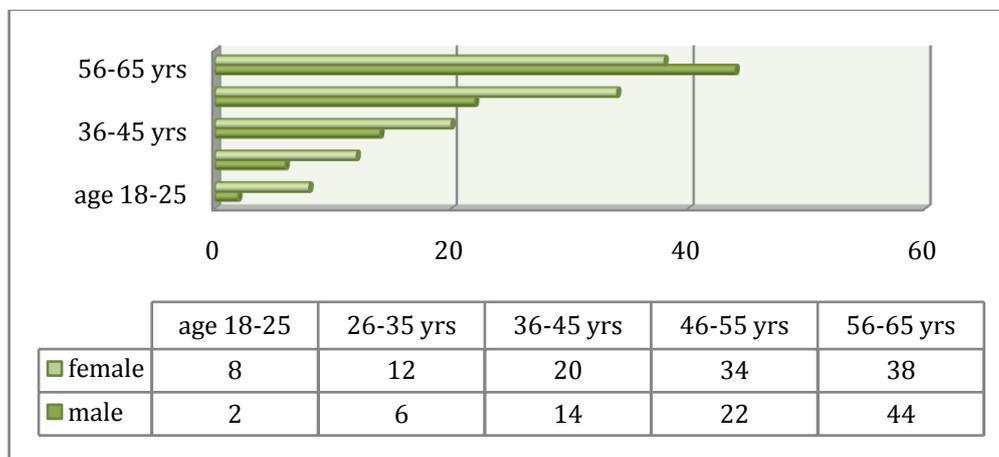


Figure 1: Age and genderdistribution

Table 2:Chief complaints / Presentingsymptoms(n=200)

Complaints	Male	Femalen=112	Totaln=200)	
	n	n	n	%
Dysuria	62	62	124	62
Frequency	14	12	26	13
Urgency	6	2	8	4
Hematuria	8	10	18	9
Fever	44	76	120	60
Others	46	64	110	55

Table 3:Duration of symptoms(n=200)

Duration(days)	Number of subjects (n)
0-5	62
6-10	60
11-15	34
16-30	18
> 30	26
Total	200
Mean duration:9.3± 6days	

Table 4:Co Morbid Conditions

Co Morbid Conditions	Male		Female		Totaln=200	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Diabetesmellitus	30	34	56	50	86	43
Hypertension	20	23	30	27	50	25
Renal insufficiency	14	16	22	20	36	18
Calculi	24	27	22	20	46	23
Neurologicaldisorders	4	4	4	4	8	4
Cystocele	-	-	16	14	-	-
BPH	48	55	-	-	-	-
Septicemia	2	2	0	0	2	1
Immunodeficiencystates	0	0	4	4	4	2
Others	24	27	16	14	40	20

Table 5: Predisposing conditions/ Risk Factors

RiskFactors	Malen=88		Female n=112		Total n=200	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Reproductive age	30	34	56	50	86	43
Short termcatheterization	14	16	8	7	22	11
Medium termcatheterization	16	18	0	0	16	8
Long termcatheterization	2	2	4	4	6	3
Post-operative	6	7	8	7	14	7
Uretericstents	0	0	4	4	4	2
Post-menopausalwomen	-	-	62	55	62	31
Stricture urethra	6	7	-	-	6	3
Traumaticinjury	0	0	2	2	2	1

Table 6: ClinicalDiagnosis(n=200)

Diagnosis	Male n=88		Female n=112		Totaln=200	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Recurrent-UTI (Uncomplicated)	4	5	10	9	14	7
Recurrent-UTI(Complicated)	18	20	26	23	44	22
ComplicatedUTI	66	75	76	68	142	71

Table 7: UrineMicroscopy

Number of WBCs(cells/hpf)	Number of Subjects n(%)
0	12 (6%)
1-5	76 (38%)
6-10	56 (28%)
>10	56(28%)
Epithelial cells present	82(41%)
RBCs present	26(13%)

Table 8: Organisms isolated on Urine Culture

Organisms	Male (n=88)		Female(n=112)		Total n=200	
	N	%	n	%	n	%
Gram negative bacteria						
Escherichia Coli	44	50	56	50	100	50
Proteus mirabilis	4	4	2	2	6	3
Klebsiella spp	16	18	24	21	40	20
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	4	4	2	2	6	3
Enterobacter spp	2	2	-	-	2	1
Acinetobacter spp	-	-	4	4	4	2
Gram positive bacteria						
Enterococcus faecalis	12	13	14	12	26	13
Staphylococcus spp	6	7	8	7	14	7
Fungus						
Candida albicans	-	-	2	2	2	1

Table 9: Organisms isolated with each type of UTI

Organisms	Recurrent UTI (uncomplicated) (n=14)		Recurrent UTI (complicated) (n=44)		Complicated UTI (n=142)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Gram Negative Bacteria						
E. Coli	10	71	24	54.5	66	47
Proteus spp	0	0	2	4.5	4	3
Klebsiella spp	2	14	4	9	34	24
Pseudomonas spp	0	0	2	4.5	4	3
Enterobacter spp	0	0	2	4.5	0	0
Acinetobacter spp	0	0	2	4.5	2	1
Gram positive bacteria						
Enterococcus spp	2	14	6	14	18	13
Staphylococcus spp	0	0	2	4.5	12	9
Fungus						
Candida spp	0	0	0	0	2	1

Table 10a: Antimicrobial Susceptibility/ Resistance Pattern- Gramnegative Bacteria

Antimicrobial drugs	Organism isolated - (n = number of isolates)															
	E. Coli=100		Proteus=6		Klebsiella n=40		Pseudomonas n=6		Enterobacter n=2		Acinetobacter n=4		Total n=158			
	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R		
Coamoxiclav	18	82	2	4	2	38	0	6	0	2	2	2	24	134		
Ciprofloxacin	22	78	2	4	12	28	0	6	2	0	2	2	40	118		
Cefipime	56	44	4	2	26	14	2	4	0	2	2	2	90	68		
Cotrimoxazole	36	64	0	6	16	24	0	6	0	2	2	2	54	104		
Gentamicin	92	8	6	0	36	4	2	4	2	0	2	2	140	18		
Amikacin	90	10	6	0	28	12	2	4	2	0	4	0	132	26		
Cefuroxime	32	68	6	0	12	28	0	6	0	2	2	2	52	106		
Nalidixic acid	18	82	0	6	8	32	0	6	2	0	4	0	32	126		
Nitrofurantoin	80	20	0	6	22	18	0	6	0	2	4	0	106	52		
Norfloxacin	16	84	0	6	14	26	0	6	0	2	2	2	32	126		
Piperacillin+Tazobactam	92	8	6	0	38	2	2	4	0	2	2	2	140	18		

Table 10b:Antimicrobial susceptibility/resistance pattern - Grampositive bacteria

Antimicrobial drugs	Enterococcuspp(n=26)		Staphylococcuspp(n=14)		Total(n=40)	
	S	R	S	R	S	R
Coamoxiclav	12	14	0	14	12	28
Clindamycin	16	10	6	8	22	18
Cefoperazone	12	14	10	4	22	18
Ciprofloxacin	4	22	4	10	8	32
Cefipime	8	22	10	4	14	26
Cloxacillin	8	18	12	2	18	22
Erythromycin	6	20	2	12	8	32
Gentamicin	10	16	10	4	20	20
Linezolid	24	2	14	0	38	2
Tetracycline	24	2	10	4	34	6
Vancomycin	24	2	14	0	38	2

Table 11a: Multidrug resistant gram negativebacteria

Organisms	Number of antimicrobial drugs classes										MDR (n=144)	%
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
E.coli	2	4	6	12	30	30	8	8	-	-	88	61
Proteus	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	6	4
Klebsiella	-	-	-	12	6	14	6	2	-	-	40	28
Pseudomonas	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	6	4
Enterobacter	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1
Acinobacter	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1

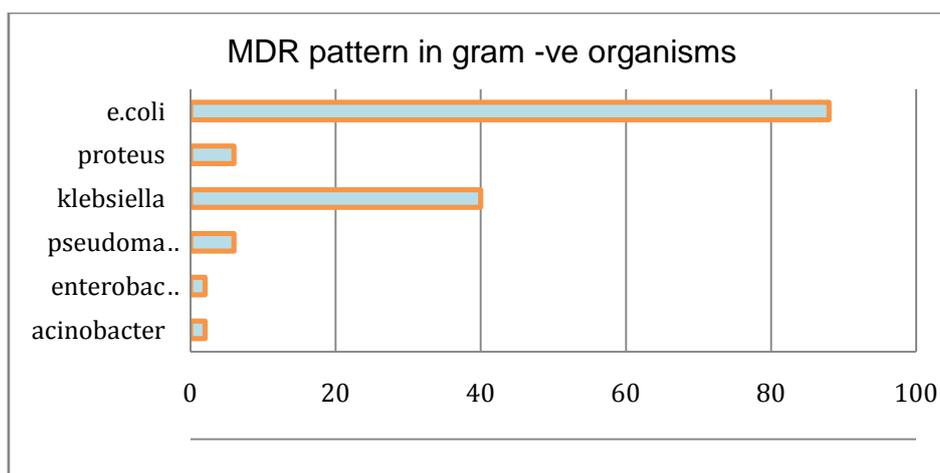


Figure 2a:Multidrug resistant gram negativebacteria

Table 11b:Multidrug resistant gram positivebacteria

Organisms	Number of Antimicrobial drugs classes										MDR n=36	%
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
Enterococcus	-	-	4	-	4	4	10	4	-	-	22	61
Staphylococcus	-	-	-	6	4	2	-	2	-	-	14	39

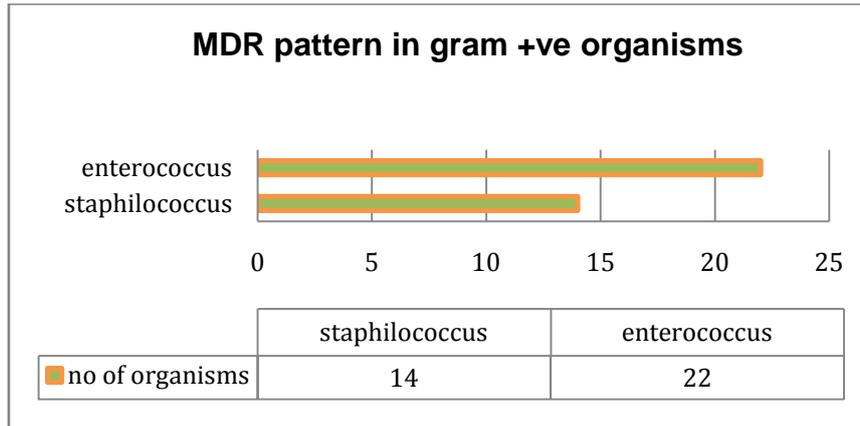


Figure 2b: Multidrug resistant gram positive bacteria

Table 12a: Hematological Investigations

Hematological abnormalities	Male n=88		Female n=112		Total n=200	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
↓ Hemoglobin(Hb)	24	27	32	29	56	28
↑ Total WBC count	40	46	72	64	112	56
Differential Count (DC) Altered	40	46	72	64	112	56
↑ ESR	12	14	22	20	34	17

Table 12b: Renal Parameters

Renal function tests	Male		Female (n=112)		Total (n=200)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
↑ Serum creatinine	14	16	28	25	42	21
↑ Blood urea	14	16	28	25	42	21

Table 13: Pattern of antimicrobial drugs use

Criteria for Selection	Male (n=88)		Female (n=112)		Total (n=200)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Empirical	78	89	92	82	170	85
Definitive	10	11	20	18	30	15

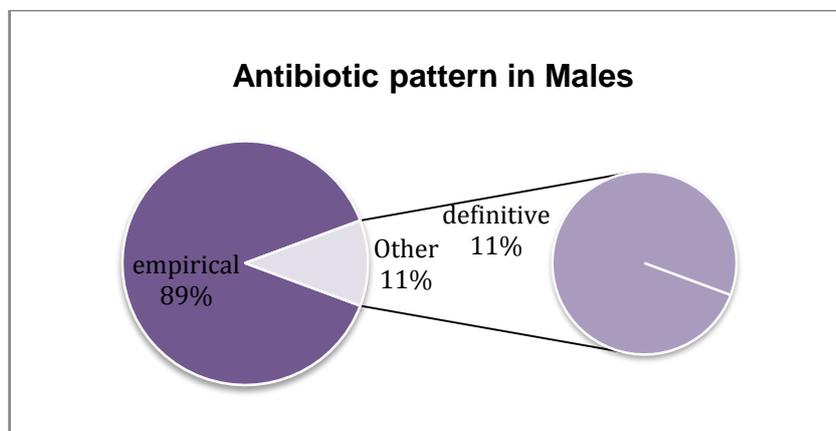


Figure No 3a: Criteria for initial Antimicrobial selection

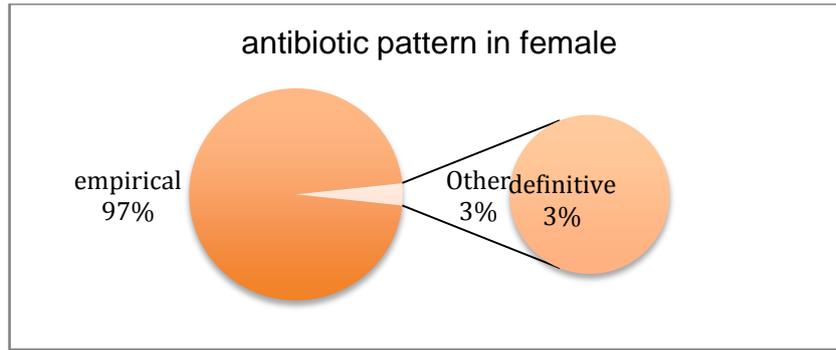


Figure 3b: Criteria for initial Antimicrobial selection

Table 14: Monotherapy / Combination therapy

Pattern of therapy	Male (n=88)		Female (n=112)		Total (n=200)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Monotherapy	62	70	80	71	142	71
Combination therapy	26	30	32	29	58	29

Table 15: Route of Administration (n=200)

Route	Male n=88		Female n=112		Total n=200	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Oral	6	7	4	4	10	5
IV	70	80	86	76	156	78
Oral and IV	12	13	22	20	34	17

Table 16: Antimicrobial Drugs – Oral

Antimicrobial drugs	Dosage	Male (n=20)		Female (n=24)		Total (n=44)	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
I Fluoroquinolones							
Ofloxacin	200mg BID	4	20	4	17	8	18
Ciprofloxacin	500mg BID	2	10	6	25	8	18
Levofloxacin	500 mg BID	0	0	2	8	2	5
Norfloxacin	400mg BID	2	10	0	0	2	5
II Beta-lactams							
Cefixime	200 mg BID	8	40	2	8	10	23
Cefpodoximeproxetil	200 mg BID	2	10	6	25	8	18
III Nitrofurans							
Nitrofurantion	100mg BID	2	10	2	8	4	9
IV Antifungal drugs							
Fluconazole	200mg OD	0	0	2	8	2	5

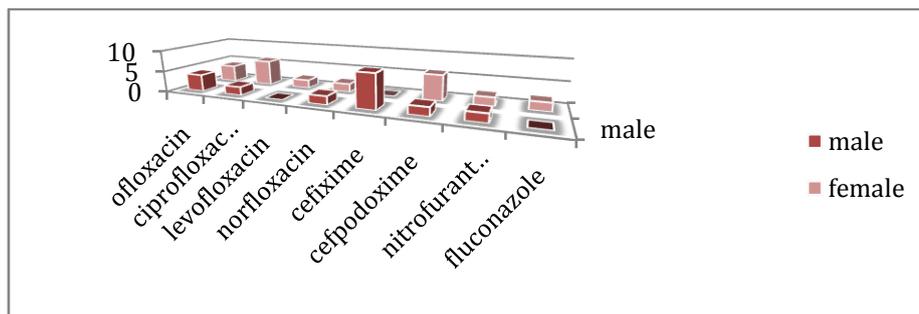


Figure 4: Oral Antimicrobial drugs

Table 17:Antimicrobial drugs – Intravenous

Antimicrobial class&genericname	drugs Dosage	Male n=88		Female n=112		Totaln=200
		n	%	n	%	
I Flouroquinolones						
Ofloxacin	200mg BID	30	34	22	20	52
Ciprofloxacin	200-500mgBID	4	4	18	16	22
Levofloxacin	500 mgBID	14	16	4	4	18
II Beta-lactams						
Co-amoxiclav	1.2 mgBID	2	2	6	5	8
Ampicillin+sulbactam	1.5GmBID	0	0	2	2	2
Amoxicillin	500mgBID	2	2	0	0	2
Piperacillin+tazobactam	2.25-4.5 GmBID	10	11	6	5	16
Cefuroxime+sulbactam	1.5GmBID	4	4	2	2	6
Ceftriaxone	1-2GmBID	4	4	22	20	26
Ceftriaxone+sulbactam	1.5GmBID	12	14	20	18	32
Cefotaxime	1GmBID	0	0	4	4	4
Ceftazidime	1GmBID	2	2	0	0	2
Cefoperazone+sulbactam	1.5GmBID	0	0	4	4	2
Cefipime+sulbactam	1.5GmBID	2	2	0	0	2
Meropenem	1GmBID	2	2	2	2	4
Doripenem	500 mgBID	0	0	2	2	2
Aztreonam	1 GmBID	0	0	2	2	2
III Aminoglycosides						
Amikacin	250-500 mgBID	2	2	2	2	4
Gentamicin	60 mgBID	2	2	0	0	2
Netilmicin	100 mgBID	4	4	2	2	6
IV Nitroimidazoles						
Metronidazole	500 mgTID	12	14	10	9	22
Ornidazole	200 mgBID	0	0	2	2	2
V Lincosamides						
Clindamycin	600 mgBID	0	0	2	2	2

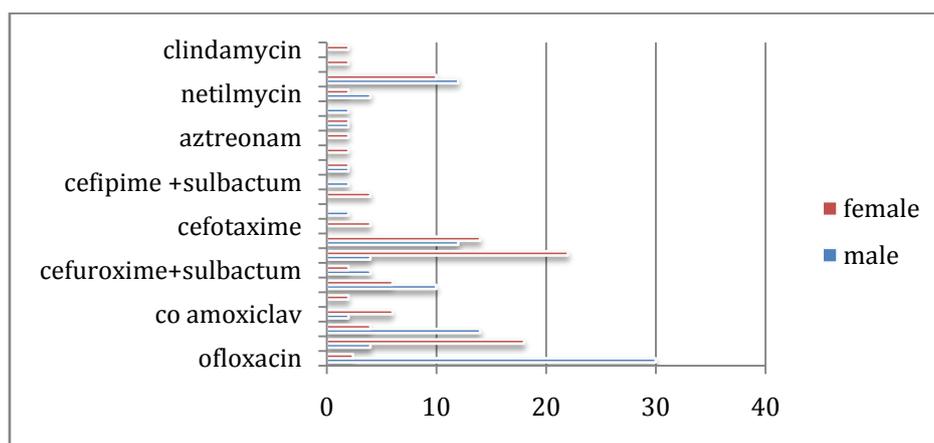


Figure 5: Antimicrobial drugs –Intravenous

Table 18: Antimicrobial drug combinations

Combinations	Number of subjects(n=58)	%
Combinations of 2Antimicrobial drugs		
Fluoroquinolones+Cephalosporins		
Ofloxacin+Cefoperazone	2	3
Ciprofloxacin+Ceftriaxone	2	3
Fluoroquinolones+Carbapenems		
Ciprofloxacin+doripenem	2	3
Fluoroquinolones+Nitroimidazole		
Ofloxacin+MTZ	2	3
Ciprofloxacin+MTZ	2	3
Norfloxacin+MTZ	2	3
Betalactams+Nitroimidazoles		
Coamoxiclav+MTZ	2	3
Ceftriaxone	6	10
sulbactam+MTZ	2	3
Ceftriaxone+MTZ	2	3
Ceftazidime+MTZ	2	3
PT+MTZ	2	3
Betalactams+Aminoglycoside		
PT+Gentamicin	6	10
Cefuroxime+Netilmicin	8	13
Cefuroxime+Amikacin	2	3
Cefipime+Netilmicin	4	7
Cefipime+Amikacin	2	3
Beta Lactam+lincosamide		
Meropenem+clindamycin	2	3
Aminoglycoside+Nitroimidazole		
Amikacin+metranidazole	2	3
Aminoglycoside+Tetracycline		
Amikacin+Doxycycline	2	3
Combinations of 3Antimicrobial drugs		
FO+Betalactam+Nitroimidazole		
Levofloxacin+ceftriaxone	2	3
sulbactam+metronidazole	2	3
Levofloxacin+ceftriaxone	2	3
sulbactam+ornidazole	2	3
Betalactam+Aminoglycoside+Nitroimidazole		
Coamoxiclav+Gentamicin+MTZ	2	3

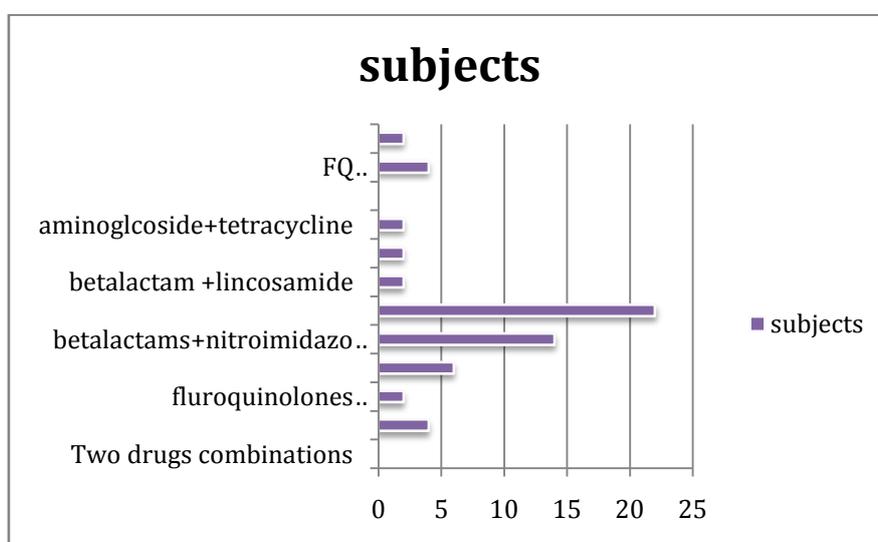


Figure 6: Antimicrobial drug Combinations

Table 19: Duration of Antimicrobial drug therapy

Duration	Male n=88		Female n=112		Total n=200	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
< 5days	2	2	4	3	6	3
6-10days	78	89	98	88	176	88
>10days	8	9	10	9	18	9
Mean duration: 9.2 ± 2.2days						

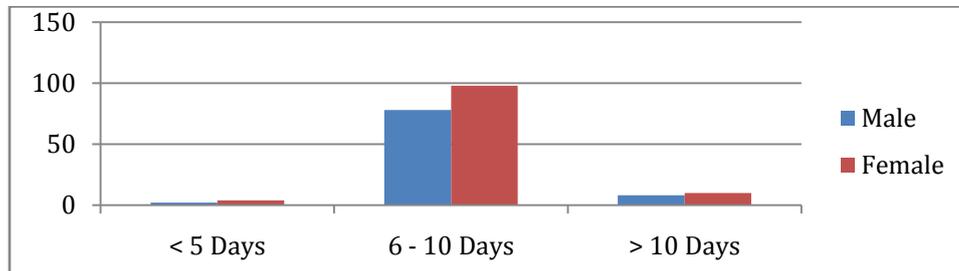


Figure 7: Duration of Antimicrobial drug therapy

Table 20: Change in Antimicrobial drug therapy

Antimicrobial drugs	Male (n=88)		Female (n=112)		Total (n=200)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Addition/substitution	28	32	40	36	68	34
Nochange	60	68	72	64	132	66
Antimicrobial drugs added/substituted						
Antimicrobial drugs –Intravenous						
Levofloxacin	2	2	0	0	2	1
Coamoxiclav	2	2	2	2	4	2
Piperacillin+tazobactam	14	16	10	9	24	12
Cephazolin	2	2	0	0	2	1
Cefuroxime	4	4	2	2	6	3
Ceftriaxone	2	2	2	2	4	2
Ceftriaxone+sulbactam	0	0	2	2	2	1
Cefoperazone+sulbactam	2	2	0	0	2	1
Cefipime	0	0	4	4	4	2
Amikacin	2	2	10	9	12	6
Gentamicin	0	0	2	2	2	1
Netilmicin	2	2	4	4	6	3
Metronidazole	4	4	6	5	10	5
Aztreonam	0	0	4	4	4	2
Antimicrobial drugs –Oral						
Cefixime	2	2	0	0	2	1
Metronidazole	2	2	0	0	2	1
Linezolid	2	2	0	0	2	1

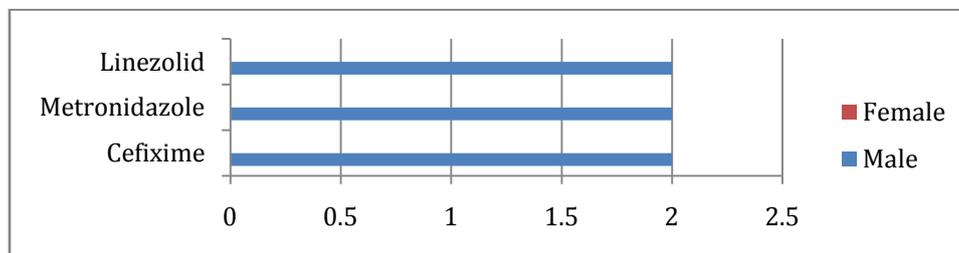


Figure 8: Change in Antimicrobial drugs therapy

Table 21: Reason for change in Antimicrobial Drug therapy

Reasons	Male (n=28)		Female (n=40)		Total (n=68)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
1. Urine culture report	4	14	10	25	14	21
2. Inadequate clinical response	6	21	16	40	22	32
3. Surgical prophylaxis	16	57	10	25	26	38
4. Additional infections	2	7	4	10	6	9

Table 22: Outcome of Antimicrobial drug therapy (n=200)

Outcome	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Improved	72	82	92	82	164	82
Persistent	8	9	12	11	20	10
Worsened	4	5	4	4	8	4
Discharge against medical advice	2	2	4	4	6	3
Death	2	2	0	0	2	1

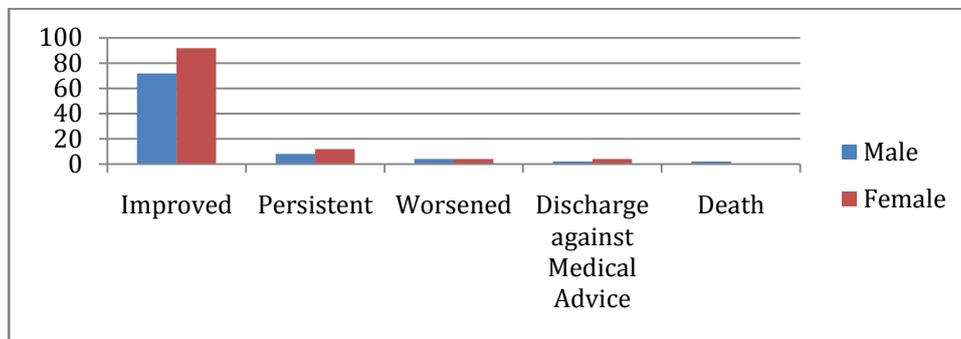


Figure 9: Outcome of Antimicrobial drug therapy

Table 23a: Follow up urine culture

Follow up urine culture	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Not available for followup	58	66	74	66	132	100
Available for followup	30	34	38	34	68	34
Total	88	100	112	100	200	100

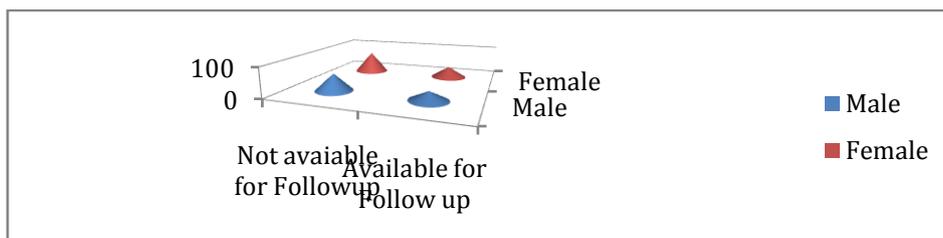


Figure 10: Follow up urine culture

Table 23b: Outcome of urine culture

Outcome	Male n=30		Female n=38		Total n=68	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Growth present	6	20	6	16	12	18
No growth	24	80	32	84	56	82

Table 24: Adverse events during Antimicrobial drug therapy

Adverse events	Male (n=24)		Female (n=26)		Total (n=50)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Nausea	8	33	8	31	16	32
Nausea with Vomiting	8	33	2	8	10	20
Diarrhea	4	17	4	15	8	16
Abdominal pain/cramps	0	0	6	12	6	12
Skin rashes	0	0	2	8	2	4
Altered taste	4	17	4	15	8	16

Table 25: Concomitant medications

Concomitant medications	Male (n=88)		Female(n=112)		Total(n=200)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Insulin	18	20	40	36	58	29
Oral anti-diabetic drugs	16	18	26	23	42	21
NSAIDs	36	41	50	45	86	43
Opioids	12	14	8	7	20	10
Antiemetics	8	9	16	14	24	12
Proton pump inhibitors	76	86	88	78	164	82
H2 Blockers	2	2	12	11	14	7
Ulcer protective drugs (sucralfate)	4	4	0	0	4	2
Antihypertensives	20	23	30	27	50	25
Antiplatelets	8	9	22	20	30	15
Hypolipidemics	6	7	18	16	24	12
Corticosteroids (Prednisolone)	0	0	1	2	2	1
Hematinics	14	16	20	18	34	17
Multivitamins	20	23	14	13	34	17
Others	18	20	8	7	26	13

V. Discussion

In the present study, the pattern of antimicrobial drug use, the criteria for selection and clinical outcome in recurrent and complicated UTIs was assessed in 200 subjects in Osmania General Hospital Hyderabad. Mean age of male subjects was 53±11.7 (n=88) and the females 48±12.7(n=112). Majority of the subjects (69%) were in the age group of 46-65 years which may reflect the higher prevalence of various co morbid conditions and risk factors.

The higher female preponderance is consistent with the fact that UTIs are more common in females due to anatomical and behavioural patterns, there was no significant difference in gender distribution in the age group of >45 years. **Arul Prakasam et al.**, study in 200 patients with UTI has 65 % Females and 35% males which was the same prevalence as the present study [11]

All the subjects presented with more than one complaint, the most common symptoms were dysuria (62%) and fever (60%). The other complaints were nausea and vomiting (23%), urinary retention (7%), urinary incontinence (4%), nonspecific abdominal pain (3%). Dysurias were more complained in males (71%) and fever more in females (68%).

Mahesh E, Ramesh D et al., study in 458 patients with complicated UTI had dysuria as most common complaint which was the same as the present study. [12]

The mean duration of symptoms was 9.3±6 days. In majority of the subjects (61%) the duration of symptoms was <10 days, and only 26 subjects had the duration >30 days. Subjects with longer duration of symptoms (>15 days) had underlying co morbid conditions such as Diabetes Mellitus, neurological disorders, renal dysfunction or risk factors which required surgical interventions, like cystocele, renal calculi, BPH.

Sunil S. Gidamudi et al., in 108 subjects has Diabetes mellitus as most common co morbid condition followed by Hypertension, renal calculi which are same as present study. [13]

The co morbid conditions in the study subjects are known causes for recurrence and relapsing UTI. The most common co morbid conditions were DM (43%), HTN (25%), renal calculi (23%), BPH (55% males), cystocele (14% females), renal insufficiency (18%), others were neurological disorders (4%), renal cysts (4%), carcinoma bladder (1%), renal cell carcinoma (1%), immunodeficiency states (2%) and septicemia (1%). Most of the subjects (82%) had >1 co morbid condition. Majority of the diabetic subjects had adequate glycemic control but 4 subjects had severe uncontrolled diabetic state with ketoacidosis at the time of admission. HTN although not directly known to increase risk of UTIs, it was a common and significant co morbid illness encountered and was frequently associated with DM and may contribute to renal dysfunction.

Significant number of subjects (62%) had more than one risk factor. The presence of risk factors for UTI was higher in females, the most common being post menopausal age (31%) and reproductive age (28%), and both of these being established risk factors for UTIs in females. The other common risk factor in both the genders (36% in males and 11% in females) was urethral catheterization (short/medium/long term) for acute urine retention, following abdominal or pelvic surgeries (n=10) or endoscopic urological procedures (n=10), voiding dysfunction due to neurological disorders or in patients requiring long term hospital care or prolonged

immobilization . Other risk factors included ureteric stents, stricture urethra and an unusual case (n=2) of renal trauma following road traffic accident with multiple contusions in renal parenchyma was noticed.

Majority of the subjects were diagnosed to have cUTI (71%), followed by recurrent cUTI (22%) and recurrent uncomplicated UTI (7%). There was no significant gender related difference in complicated UTI (males: n=66; females: n=76). However recurrent UTI showed slightly higher prevalence in females (females: n=36; males: n=22). The higher prevalence of complicated UTI in the study subjects (71%) compared to recurrent UTI can be correlated to the presence of various co morbid conditions (DM, HTN, renal dysfunction) or abnormalities of the urinary tract, e.g. renal calculi, BPH, renal cysts, strictures etc.

Urine microscopy for WBCs, epithelial cells and RBCs was done in all the subjects in present study. 38% of the subjects showed occasional WBCs, 28% significant WBCs, and another 28% pyuria (>10 cells/hpf); epithelial cells in 41% and RBCs in 13% of the subjects. The presence of WBCs in urine is suggestive of UTI, but may not correlate with the severity of the infection. The presence of epithelial cells in the urine is non-specific.

All the study subjects had significant bacteriuria as detected by urine culture (> 10⁵ cfu/ml of urine). Majority of the isolates were gram negative bacteria (79%), which predominantly included E.coli (n=100) followed by Klebsiella (n=40), Proteus (n=6), Pseudomonas (n=6), Enterobacter (n=2) and Acinobacter (n=4). Gram positive bacteria (20%) included enterococci (n=26) and staphylococci (n=14). Two isolates were Candida albicans.

A study conducted by **Majda Qureshi et al.**, in 256 patients with UTI had E.coli as most common organism 76% followed by Klebsiella (23%). [14]

A study conducted by **Saleem M, Daniel B. et al.**, in 100 patients had Escherichia coli as most common causative organism followed by klebsiella which was same as present study. [15]

Another study conducted by **Mohammad Alzohairy Habeebkhadri et al.**, E.coli was most common organism followed by Klebsiella which were consistent with the present study. [16]

The antimicrobial susceptibility/resistance patterns are shown in table 10a and 10b. Majority of the **E.Coli** isolates (>80%) were susceptible for **piperacillin+tazobactam, nitrofurantoin, gentamicin and amikacin**; significant resistance was found for coamoxiclav (82%), ciprofloxacin (78%), norfloxacin (84%), nalidixic acid, cefuroxime (68%), cotrimoxazole (67%) and moderate resistance to cefipime (44%). Among the **Klebsiella** isolates, most of them were susceptible to piperacillin+tazobactam (91%), gentamicin (90%), amikacin (70%), nitrofurantoin (55%), cefipime (65%) while considerable resistance was noted to ciprofloxacin (70%), norfloxacin (65%) and nalidixic acid (80%), cotrimoxazole (60%), coamoxiclav (95%) and cefuroxime (70%). Among the **Pseudomonas** isolates

all were found resistant to coamoxiclav, ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, nalidixic acid, nitrofurantoin, cotrimoxazole and cefuroxime, and only two isolates were susceptible for cefipime, gentamicin, amikacin and piperacillin+tazobactam; 2 isolates were susceptible to imipenem, meropenem and ceftriaxone+tazobactam. All the 3 isolates of Proteus spp were susceptible to gentamicin, amikacin, cefuroxime and piperacillin+tazobactam but resistant to cotrimoxazole, nalidixic acid, nitrofurantoin and norfloxacin. The enterobacter isolate (n=2) were susceptible to ciprofloxacin, gentamicin, amikacin and nalidixic acid but resistant to other antimicrobial drugs. The isolates of acinobacter (n=4) were susceptible to amikacin, nalidixic acid and nitrofurantoin. Out of the total number of isolates (n=158), 140 were susceptible for gentamicin and piperacillin+tazobactam, and 122 for amikacin and 106 for nitrofurantoin. The number of resistant isolates was high for coamoxiclav, nalidixic acid, norfloxacin and ciprofloxacin.

Antimicrobial susceptibility and resistance pattern in the gram negative isolates in a study conducted by **Mahesh E, Ramesh D et al.**, has E.coli resistant to First generation Fluoroquinolones (76.9%) which was same as the present study. [12]

Oyebola Fasugba et al., conducted a study on patients with UTI in which E.coli was resistant to Ciprofloxacin. [17]

Table 10b shows antimicrobial susceptibility and resistance patterns for gram positive isolates which included Enterococcus spp (n=26) and Staphylococcus spp (n=14). Most of the isolates of enterococcus (n=24) were susceptible to linezolid, tetracycline and vancomycin but resistant to ciprofloxacin, cefipime and cloxacillin, gentamicin and erythromycin. All the 14 isolates (MRSA=2) of staphylococcus were susceptible for linezolid and vancomycin and most of them for cefoperazone (n=10), cefipime, tetracycline, cloxacillin. Among total number of 40 gram positive isolates, 38 were susceptible for linezolid and vancomycin, and 34 for tetracycline.

Arul Prakasam et al., conducted a study in 200 patients with UTI had E.coli isolates (94.3%) sensitive to Meropenem, (58%) to Amikacin, (43%) to gentamicin, (30.76%) to Cefotaxim, (23.09%) to Ciprofloxacin and Norfloxacin and (15.38%) to Cotrimoxazole. [11]

Mohammad Aizohairy et al., conducted a study in patients with UTI had E.coli susceptible to Imipenem (98.8%), Amikacin (34.2%), Norfloxacin (40.4%), Nitrofurantoin (44.5%) and Cotrimoxazole (46.7%).

Though the gram positive organisms are becoming increasingly resistant to the frequently used Antimicrobial drugs, linezolid and vancomycin remain effective against most of the staphylococci including MRSA.

Sunil S. Gidamudi et al., conducted a study in 108 patients with UTI in which Multi Drug Resistant Organisms were most common in E. coli and Klebsiella. [13]

The prevalence of MDR (defined as resistance to ≥ 3 Antimicrobial drug classes) isolates were shown in Tables 15a and 15b. 61.2% of the gram negative MDR isolates were E. Coli, 28% were Klebsiella, among gram positive MDR isolates 61% were Enterococcus and 39% were Staphylococcus.

Gauravdalela et al., conducted a study on 184 patients with UTI had resistance to oral drugs Amoxycillin, norfloxacin, doxycycline and cotrimoxazole. Sensitive to parenteral Aminoglycosides, carbapenems and piperacillin/tazobactam. [18]

The renal parameters in 42 subjects had raised blood urea and serum creatinine levels. 36 subjects were diagnosed to have established renal failure secondary to DM and HTN, and renal dysfunction due to chronic obstructive pathology in the urinary tract.

The criteria for the initial selection of Antimicrobial drugs were summarized in Table 13. The choice of Antimicrobial drugs was empirical in majority of the subjects (85%), and only in 15% of the subjects the Antimicrobial drugs were started as definitive therapy based on urine culture and susceptibility patterns.

Harish Naik et al., conducted a study in patients with UTI shows that the therapeutic approach for UTI is primary empirical and the main aim is to treat specifically which was consistent with the present study [19].

The initial empirical therapy was replaced by definitive therapy in 12 subjects following urine culture report. The routine use of Antimicrobial drugs on empirical basis may be an important contributing factor in the emergence of drug resistant strains. In most of the subjects (71%) the Antimicrobial drugs were used as monotherapy. Combination therapy with concurrent use of two or more Antimicrobial drugs of different classes was employed in 29% of the subjects, because of inadequate clinical improvement with monotherapy. The purpose of combining Antimicrobial drugs was to provide synergistic action, wider coverage and also to minimize antimicrobial resistance.

The Antimicrobial drugs were used by IV route in majority of the subjects (78%), oral route in only 5% of the subjects and both by oral and IV routes in 17% of subjects. Both oral and IV routes were employed in 17 subjects because of concurrent administration of 2 or more Antimicrobial drugs effective by different routes. IV route is generally preferred since the majority of the Antimicrobial drugs are ineffective by mouth, and also to ensure quicker onset of action, rapid attainment of desired plasma concentration, higher antimicrobial efficacy, anticipated surgical interventions and feasibility for monitoring under hospital settings.

Sunil S Gidamadi et al., conducted a study in patients with UTI most commonly prescribed Antimicrobial was Ceftriaxone followed by Cefixime and Azithromycin. [13]

The different classes of Antimicrobial drugs used are shown in Tables 16 and 17. The Antimicrobial drugs used by oral route included the **Fluoroquinolones** (ofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin and norfloxacin), **third generation cephalosporins** (cefixime, cefpodoxime proxetil), **nitrofurans** (nitrofurantoin) and the **azole antifungal agent** (fluconazole). These oral Antimicrobial drugs were preferred as first-line drugs because of their good oral bioavailability and tolerability, particularly in cases of mild infections without any complicating factors, or as oral switch-over therapy following initial parenteral therapy with the respective Antimicrobial drugs of the same class.

The Antimicrobial drugs used by intravenous route are summarized in Table 17. Fluoroquinolones and the nitroimidazoles were given by IV infusion and others by slow IV injection. Most of the Antimicrobial drugs were used in their standard titrated adult doses and frequency. The most commonly used Antimicrobial drugs were **Fluoroquinolones** (46%) and **beta-lactams** (56%). The most commonly used Fluoroquinolones was ofloxacin (26%) and among the beta-lactams, ceftriaxone (29%). Other class of Antimicrobial drugs used were aminoglycosides (6%) including amikacin (n=4), gentamicin (n=2) and netilmicin (n=6); nitroimidazoles including metronidazole (n=22) and ornidazole (n=2). In two subjects with renal abscess clindamycin was used in combination with meropenem. In other studies the Antimicrobial drugs commonly employed were Fluoroquinolones and beta-lactams with or without Aminoglycosides.

Harish Naik et al., (2013) conducted a study on patients with UTI in Kerala were cephalosporins (Cefotaxime and Ceftriaxone) are used most commonly. [19]

The Antimicrobial drugs generally used for UTIs include the Fluoroquinolones, beta-lactams, Aminoglycosides and occasionally nitroimidazoles. All these Antimicrobial drugs have potent bactericidal action, low protein binding, no metabolic inactivation, high bactericidal concentration in the urine and renal parenchyma and potentially synergistic antimicrobial action, and hence considered most appropriate options for the therapy. Though Aminoglycosides are less effective in acidic urine, others retain good antimicrobial activity.

Apart from the Antimicrobial drugs, several adjuvants were used for symptomatic relief which included probiotics (lactobacilli), urine alkalizing drugs (sodium citrate, bicarbonate or potassium citrate) and urinary antispasmodics (flavoxate or dicyclomine). Urine alkalizing drugs were used for their established role in

control of distressing local irritative symptoms associated with UTIs, and also in increasing the urinary concentration of certain antimicrobial drugs and enhancing their antimicrobial effects. The urinary antispasmodics were used to relieve spasm or pain associated with renal calculi or other obstructive etiologies.

The antimicrobial drug combinations were used only in 58 subjects and were given separately by IV injection or infusion. However in 24 subjects IV antimicrobial drugs were used along with oral drugs. The most common antimicrobial drug combinations were beta lactams with aminoglycosides (n=22), beta lactam with nitroimidazoles were used in subjects (n=14), the other antimicrobial drug combinations were Fluoroquinolones+beta lactams (n=6), Fluoroquinolones+Nitroimidazoles (n=6), beta lactam+lincosamide (n=2), aminoglycoside+Nitroimidazole (n=2), aminoglycoside+Tetracycline (n=2). In 6 subjects the combinations of 3 Antimicrobial drugs including Fluoroquinolones+Beta lactam +Nitroimidazole (n=2) and Beta lactam+aminoglycoside+Nitroimidazole were used.

The Antimicrobial drugs were combined on empirical basis intending synergistic antimicrobial action wider antimicrobial coverage and also to minimize the risk of antimicrobial resistance. The combination of beta lactams and aminoglycoside or Fluoroquinolones can be considered as rational as these Antimicrobial drugs have different sites and mechanisms of action, and also have different antimicrobial spectrum to ensure adequate coverage of gram positive and gram negative organisms. The combinations of nitroimidazoles with other Antimicrobial drugs ensures good coverage against anaerobic infections particularly in renal abscess or intending surgical interventions. The most common antimicrobial drug combinations reported in other studies included beta lactams with Aminoglycosides. [20,21]

Table 19 indicates duration of antimicrobial drug therapy in the subjects. In majority of the subjects (88%) the duration of therapy ranged from 6-10 days with the mean duration of 9.2 ± 2.2 days. The duration of therapy was > 10 days in only 9% of the subjects and < 5 days in 3% of the subjects. In other studies the overall duration of therapy ranged from 5-20 days.

The change in antimicrobial drug therapy and reasons for the change are summarized in Tables 20 and 21. In majority of the subjects (66%) there was no change in the initial antimicrobial drugs therapy because of good clinical response, and the change in therapy involving addition or substitution with other Antimicrobial drugs was required only in 34% of the subjects, the Antimicrobial drugs added to initial therapy (n=92) and substituted for initial therapy (n=44). The change in antimicrobial drug therapy was based on urine culture report (n=14), inadequate clinical response (n=22), surgical prophylaxis for ensuring wider antimicrobial coverage (n=26) and additional infections like gastrointestinal, respiratory infections in subjects (n=6). The Antimicrobial drugs added to initial therapy for synergistic effect or to widen the antibacterial efficacy were piperacillin+tazobactam, amikacin, gentamicin, netilmicin, metronidazole, cefuroxime, ceftriaxone, ceftriaxone+sulbactam, cefoperazone+sulbactam, cephalosporin, cefixime, cefipime, levofloxacin, coamoxiclav. The reasons for change in antimicrobial drug therapy observed in other studies were similar to the present study.

Table 22 shows the outcome of antimicrobial drug therapy based on the clinical improvement and urine culture. 82% of the subjects showed good improvement, whereas in 10% of the subjects the infection was persistent, and in 4% the infection worsened; 6 subjects were discharged against medical advice and hence not available for assessment. There were no gender related differences in the treatment outcome. The reasons for inadequate response to antimicrobial drug therapy may probably be due to inadequate control of co morbid conditions (DM, CKD), persistence of risk factors like urethral catheterization (for neurological conditions/ long term immobility), ureteric stents, immunodeficiency states or infection with multidrug resistance organisms.

The number of subjects available for follow-up urine culture and the outcome of the urine culture are shown in tables 23a and 23b respectively. 68 subjects were available for follow-up urine culture and the bacterial growth was seen only in 12 subjects. The same pathogen was isolated in 8 subjects indicating a relapse, and different pathogens in 4 subjects indicating re-infection. The pathogens isolated were Klebsiella (n=4), E.coli (n=4), Staphylococcus (n=2), Enterococcus (n=2). These subjects who had growth on repeat urine culture usually had uncontrolled or poorly controlled co morbid conditions or other risk factors (DM, renal insufficiency, stents, reproductive age or post-menopausal age).

Table 24 summarizes the adverse events during Antimicrobial therapy. The adverse events related to antimicrobial drug therapy are only in 25% of the subjects had the adverse events which were mainly gastrointestinal (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain/cramps), cutaneous (skin rashes) and taste disturbances (altered taste). However the causality of various adverse events could not be ascertained because of the concomitant administration of several Antimicrobial drugs. The mild skin rashes observed in one subject was probably due to ceftriaxone and was self-limiting, did not require change in antimicrobial drugs. No serious adverse events related to antimicrobial drug therapy were observed in any of the subject during the course of therapy.

Table 25 summarizes the concomitant medications in the study subjects for various co morbid conditions and for symptomatic treatment of other associated clinical manifestations. Almost all subjects received more than one medication apart from antimicrobial drug therapy. The most commonly used concomitant medications were PPIs (82%), NSAIDs (43%), insulin (29%), oral antidiabetic drugs (21%), antihypertensives (25%), antiemetics (12%), hematinics and multivitamins (17%), opioids (10%). PPIs and H2 blockers were required to suppress gastric acidity and prevent ulcerations particularly due to NSAID use. Insulin and oral antidiabetic drugs were required in diabetic subjects, NSAIDs and opioid analgesics were mainly used to control associated pain, fever and inflammation. The concomitant medications did not appear to have any adverse interaction with the Antimicrobial drugs used.

VI. Conclusion

The recurrent and complicated UTIs can be treated empirically with monotherapy or combined therapy of various Antimicrobial drugs.

Definitive therapy based on the in vitro sensitivity/resistance pattern is required in the presence of complicating factors like co morbid conditions, associated abnormalities in the urinary tract, invasive procedures or infections with MDR organisms.

The Antimicrobial drugs used in the present study included Fluoroquinolones, beta-lactams, Aminoglycosides and nitroimidazoles, mainly by intravenous route to ensure adequate concentration in the tissue and the urine and for more predictable antimicrobial action.

The antimicrobial drugs combination involved beta-lactams + Aminoglycosides, beta-lactams + nitroimidazoles, Fluoroquinolones + beta-lactams / nitroimidazoles, and such combinations were found rational for synergistic antimicrobial action, widening the antimicrobial spectrum and for preventing the possible resistance.

Based on the in vitro evidence, piperacillin-tazobactam combined with Aminoglycosides (gentamicin/amikacin) can be considered most suitable with metronidazole added in case of anaerobic infection. Most of the patients showed good clinical and bacteriological improvement even with empirical therapy.

6.1 Strengths of the present study:

In the present study the outcome of therapy was favourable in majority of the subjects (82%) with good clinical and bacteriological improvement even with empirical therapy and most of the isolates being drug resistant, which may be indicative of appropriateness in the choice of Antimicrobial drug combinations.

6.2 Limitations of the study:

The follow-up urine culture for the objective assessment of the treatment outcome and optimizing the duration of therapy, may not always be feasible because of the non-availability of the patients for regular follow-up.

6.3 Recommendations of further work:

Further more elaborate studies may be required to formulate appropriate guidelines for therapy particularly in the presence of the complicating risk factors.

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