

## **Abstract**

**Background:** Lack of knowledge is an important factor that contributes to incorrect use of medicines. Recent surveys show that the general knowledge about the rational use of antibiotics in the community is limited. This contributes to the problem of irrational antibiotic use, leading to a progressive loss of bacterial sensitivity to these drugs, the spreading of resistant strains of bacteria and reduces the number of available effective drugs for serious or antibiotic-resistant infections. Nurses who responsible to protect the health of individuals and community have very limited information regarding thoughts, perceptions, and knowledge about antibiotic use. **Objectives:** assessment of nurses' knowledges , practices, and attitudes about the excessive of antibiotics. **Method:** a questionnaire about excessive use of antibiotics was given to a sample of nurses in the hilla teaching hospital and Imam sadeq hospital. 113 nurses returned completed questions from 17<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. **Results:** more than half of the participants (60%) were females and (40%) were males. A majority of the participants (56%) were aged less than 25 years and only (20%) had experience more than five years. The knowledge of antibiotics use among participants was positive . many respondent agreed that antibiotics are effective against bacteria (87%) ,the majority of participants (75%) agreed that the unnecessarily use of antibiotics can increase the resistance of bacteria. Attitude was positive and the practice was negative results **Conclusion:** Respondent displayed poor knowledge particularly in regard to the role of antibiotics in minor viral illness. Participants had negative attitude toward the use of antibiotics for cold and sore throat. There were also significant malprac- tices such as failing to take full dose, purchasing antibiotics without prescription. educational interventions on antibiotics use and its association with drug resistance are needed to promote judicious use of antibiotic. **Recommendations:** Increase knowledge and awareness of nurses and other health care providers about rational use of antibiotics by develops and deivers education programs at all levels of the health system on how to monitor and improve antibiotics use.organizing seminars to improve nurses knowledge, attitudes and practice about rational use of antibiotic

**Keyword:** knowledge, nurses, antibiotics, rational antibiotic use, irrational antibiotic use