

Antimycotic, antifungal use shows "striking variation" in Europe

"Striking variation" exists in the outpatient use of antimycotic and antifungal agents across Europe, contend researchers from Belgium.

Using 2007 data from 20 European countries,* the researchers found that total outpatient systemic antimycotic and antifungal use varied by a factor of 6.7 between the country with the highest use (3.30 DID** in Belgium) and the country with the lowest use (0.45 DID in Croatia). Itraconazole, ketoconazole and terbinafine accounted for > 94% of total outpatient antimycotic and antifungal use in all countries.

The researchers note that the between-country variation factor observed in antimycotic and antifungal use is "1.8 times higher" than for antibacterial use. They suggest that similar determinants could explain the "large differences" in consumption of antimycotics, antifungals and antibacterials among European countries, including sociocultural differences, differences in resources and utilisation, regulatory practices and pharmaceutical markets, and difference in the knowledge of antimicrobials.

* as part of the European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption (ESAC) project

** expressed in defined daily doses per 1000 inhabitants per day

Adriaenssens N, et al. European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption: Outpatient systemic antimycotic and antifungal use in Europe. *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* : 8 Feb 2010. Available from: URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/jac/dkq023>

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