

37107/PHARM T/P

DETERMINATION OF THE CAUSES OF RESISTANCE OF BACTERIA TO
ANTIBIOTICS
AT MATHARI DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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INDEX NUMBER: 4010024078

SUBMITTED TO:

THE KENYA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DIPLOMA
IN PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY.

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SUBMITTED IN SEPTEMBER, 2007.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 ABSTRACT

This research entails the determination of the causes of resistance of bacterial strains to antibiotics as a whole. The study design was through direct interview largely, personal observation in the hospital pharmacy and by use of questionnaires. The study was conducted at Mathari District Hospital between the periods of January to March 2007 (2 months) and the study subjects included patients of all races, ages ranging from 18 to 50 years and sex was not a priority.

The study took place through a random sample as it was the most appropriate in such a highly populated area.

The study was not only confined to the hospital and its precincts, but also the neighbouring Pangani and Mathare estate and slums respectively. After the study, it came out clearly that both the patients and the health practitioners do not carry out rationale use of drugs as well as dispensing, mostly due to monetary factors and negligence on both parties. The level of education of the patients also played a role in terms of rationale use of drugs. Most do not understand what the dispensers advise them and arrogance makes them less inquisitive hence they use drugs according to their own understanding.

To correct this, proper use of drugs and proper dispensing on both the patients and the health practitioners respectively is required. Use of beta-lactamase inhibitors in cases of resistance and employment of surveillance officers by the ministry of health to keep an eye on don't-care health practitioners and quacks is also a way of combating resistance. In addition, cases that have been confirmed as having treatment failure should be treated with 2nd line drugs. Other methods of diagnosis should also be incorporated by the medical practitioners. Data presentation is via pie-charts, graphs (bar and line), and tables. The limitations that I came across were ignorance from most of the respondents demanding money for exchange of information and also inadequacy of finances to support this project.