Assessment of Antimicrobial Prescribing Practice and Culture in a Teaching Hospital
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Background
Antimicrobial resistance is one of the most critical threats to Global Health. One of its root causes, misuse of antibiotics, can stem from prescribers’ preconceived ideas, differing attitudes and lack of knowledge. Canadian data on this subject is scarce.

Objective
To understand the culture of antimicrobial prescribing in order to optimize strategies in the local antimicrobial stewardship program.

Methods
A confidential online survey was distributed to antimicrobials prescribers at a 772 beds hospital.

Participation
240 respondents completed the survey (CI: 95%, MOE: 5.47%). Participation amongst attending physicians, residents and specialized nurse practitioners was 16%, 37% and 29%, respectively.

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Conclusion
Prescribers recognized antimicrobial resistance as a critical issue but awareness and knowledge on antibiotic use were lacking. Our results are consistent with prior surveys published globally (Salsgiver et al. Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology, 2018). Strategies for improving the effectiveness of antimicrobial stewardship program is been developed and further surveys will be conducted in other hospitals of our network.

Results
- All surveyees agreed that antimicrobial resistance is a national significant challenge
- 46% believed that antibiotics are misused locally
- 29% did not know where to find hospital resources for optimal antimicrobial prescribing
- Respondents felt more confident when to start antimicrobial therapy (88%) than when to stop it (62%)
- Prescribers’ confidence did not correlate with knowledge (table 1)
- Several knowledge gaps were identified through clinical questions
- Number of correct knowledge questions appears to decrease with years of practice (table 2)