

# PRINCIPAL DRUG INFORMATION SOURCES FOR RUSSIAN PHYSICIANS

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## Introduction

Rational choice of medicinal products is a crucial in effective treatment of any disease, and appropriateness of prescriptions depends on the level of knowledge of medical professionals gained from various informational sources of different grade of evidence and up-to-dateness.

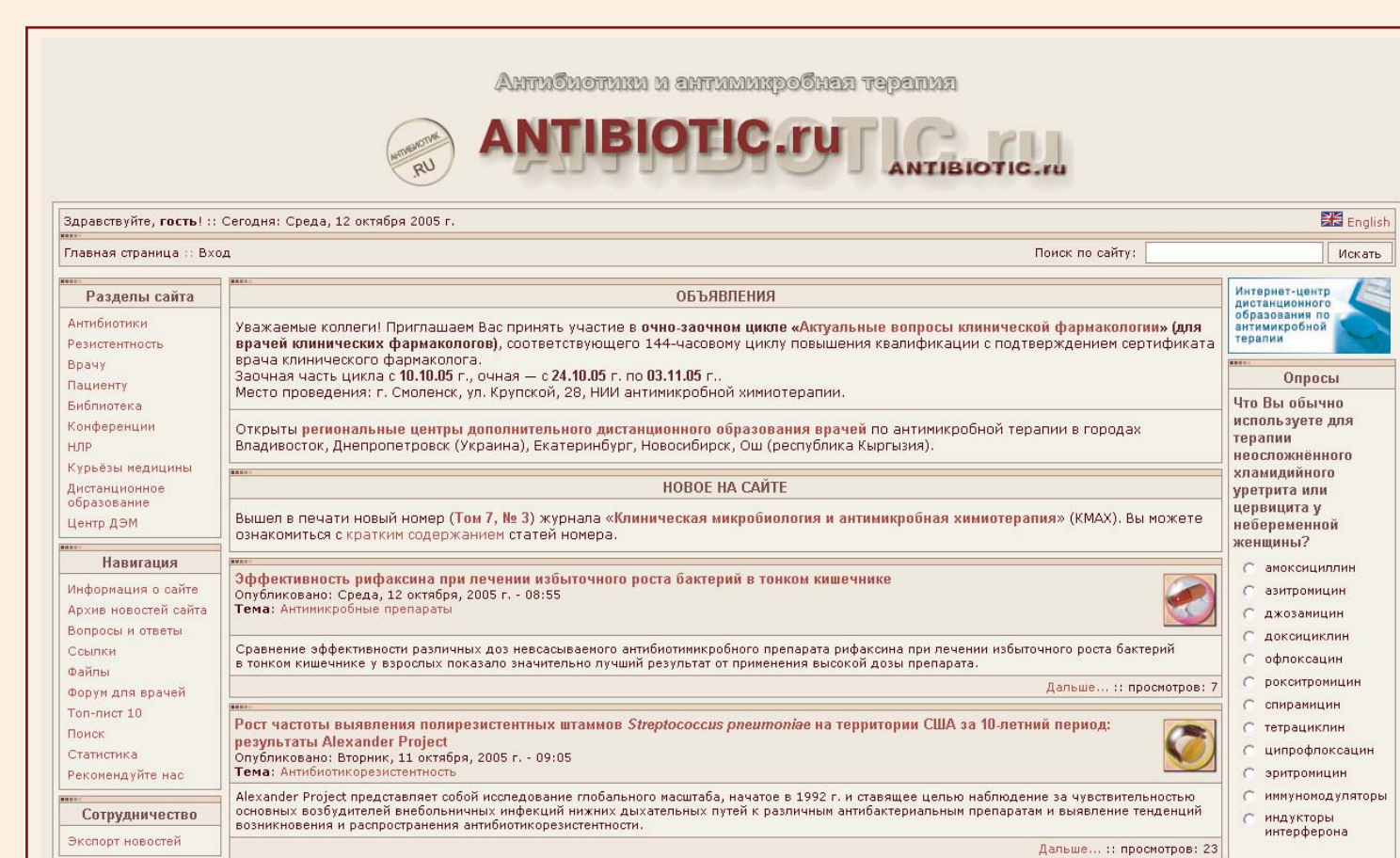


## Purpose

To assess the role of principal drug information sources on medicinal products for Russian physicians.

## Methods

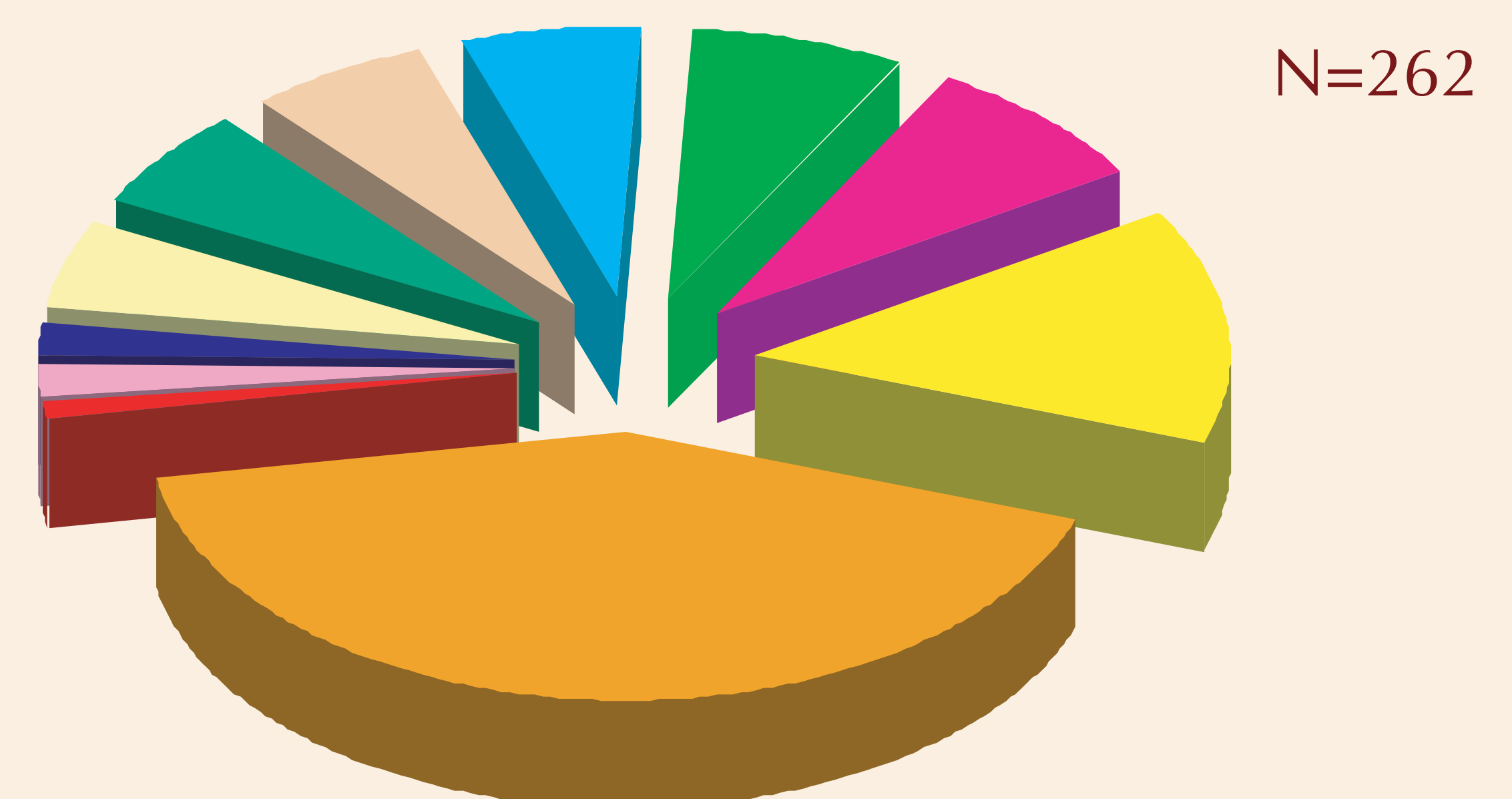
From 23-MAR-2005 to 01-AUG-2005 anonymous on-line survey was performed among physicians accessing the official web-site of the Institute of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy "Antibiotics and Antimicrobial Therapy" ([www.antibiotic.ru](http://www.antibiotic.ru)). Visitors were offered to choose one answer to the question "What informational sources do you commonly use prescribing medication therapy to your patients?" Data analysis was performed using descriptive statistic methods.



## Results

In course of the on-line survey 262 physicians accessing [www.antibiotic.ru](http://www.antibiotic.ru) took part. In accordance to their responses the most powerful informational sources influencing the physicians' choice of medications were practical guidelines created by Russian medical scientific societies (40.5%, ■ ), established practice of drug prescribing in the employing medical institution of the respondent (13.7%, ■ ) and reference books (8.0%, ■ ). Less frequently prescribing was based on personal experience and knowledge gained during undergraduate medical education (7.3% ■ and 6.5%, ■ , respectively),

and also on information provided at the post-graduate education courses (6.5%, ■ ), methodical recommendations of the Ministry of Health of Russian Federation (6.5%, ■ ) and the drug formulary of the respective medical institution (5.7%, ■ ). The following information sources: textbooks, directives of head of the department and insurance companies' protocols were occasionally used (1.9%, ■ , 1.9%, ■ and 1.5%, ■ ).



<http://www.antibiotic.ru/modules.php?op=modload&name=NS-Polls&file=index&reg=results&pollID=14&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0>

Fig. 1. "What informational sources do you commonly use prescribing medication therapy to your patients?"

## Discussion

Proper allowance must be made for the fact that practical guidelines created by Russian medical scientific societies named as the most powerful information source for drug prescribing by the prevalent number of respondents are not always based on the contemporary scientific evidence. Established practice of drug prescribing in medical institutions also could not be considered as a proper information source due to its out-dated principles and lack of conformity to the modern requirements. It is worth to note that quite few of respondents had confidence in recommendations of the Ministry of Health of Russian Federation that are obligatory for physicians to follow.

## Conclusions

Most of the practicing physicians use information sources of uncertain evidence for the choice of medication therapy. Lack of confidence was noted in the official recommendations of the Ministry of Health of Russian Federation.