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Antibiotic Prophylaxis Variance Amongst Otolaryngologists and Dermatologic Surgeons When Operating on the External Ear - **Neal-Smith, G., Lim, K., Felton, M., Xerri, J., Swift, B., Felton, S.**, Oxford, UK

Objectives

To determine the range in practice amongst otolaryngology and dermatological surgeons in the use of antibiotics when operating on the external ear.

Methods

An online questionnaire survey including photographs of skin cancer lesions and differing surgical repairs of the external ear was disseminated to members of the British Society for Dermatological Surgery and ENT UK. It queried about a) local guidelines and b) if they would prescribe antibiotics and, if so, pre- and/or post-operatively, and topical and/or oral.

Results

There was great variance in practice between and within specialties. Dermatological surgeons were significantly more likely to prescribe for an exophytic tumour than Otolaryngologists (41% v 23% $p < 0.05$). In all cases a greater proportion of Otolaryngologists prescribe antibiotics both pre-operatively and post-operatively compared to Dermatological surgeons.

Conclusions

There are great differences in antibiotic prescriptions, likely attributable to lack of organisational guidelines which may be contributing to antibiotic over usage.