

AND TRAINING  
National Institute of Hygiene and Epidem

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**TRAN THI MAI HUNG**

**ASSESSING THE SITUATION AND SOME  
RELATED TO ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE  
COMMON BACTERIA IN THE COMMUNITY  
IN VIETNAM 2018-2019**

**Specialization: Public Health**

**Code: 62 72 03 01**

**THESIS SUMMARY**

**Hanoi - 2022**

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The thesis will be defended at the Institute-level Thesis Evaluation Council meeting at the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology.

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1. **Tran Thi Mai Hung**, Tran Huy Hoang, Duong Thi Hong, Duong Thi Trang, Pham Duy Thai, Ho Hoang Dung, Lan Phuong, Nguyen Thi Minh, Ho Hoang Dung, Nguyen Thi Minh, Khuong Thi Thanh Anh, Dang Duc Anh (2020): Knowledge, attitude and antimicrobial use by patients at commune health facilities in some regions of Vietnam in 2018 - 2019. *Preventive Medicine*, vol. 30 (10): 84-93.
2. **Tran Thi Mai Hung**, Duong Thi Hong, Luong Thi Trang, Pham Duy Thai, Ho Hoang Dung, Lan Phuong, Nguyen Thi Minh, Khuong Thi Thanh Anh, Tran Huy Hoang (2021): Billionaire plasmid of *Escherichia coli* carrying the gene encoding ESBL in some common diseases visiting primary health facilities in some provinces and cities of Vietnam. *Science and Technology Magazine*, volume 63

The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies antimicrobial resistance as one of the ten threats to global health, development, and health security. Antimicrobial-resistant bacteria pose an enormous global economic and disease burden. It was estimated that in 2019, there would be 1.27 million deaths from antimicrobial-resistant bacteria worldwide and 4.95 million deaths related to antimicrobial-resistant bacteria. The latest WHO surveillance report in 2021 showed that *E. coli* and *K.pneumonia* were two of the most common antimicrobial-resistant agents and two agents with very high rates of multidrug resistance and sepsis in both community and hospital. This has been the global disease burden and the economy, especially in developing countries. However, most data on antimicrobial-resistant bacteria focus on surveillance and research in the hospital environment.

Vietnam is one of the countries with severe antimicrobial resistance. One of the reasons is the uncontrolled use of antimicrobials in the community and livestock. Over the years, Vietnam has also paid certain attention to the situation of antimicrobial resistance. However, the investment in resources as well as the strategy for the surveillance and management of antimicrobial resistance has not been synchronically implemented. Currently, there is not much data on the extent of antimicrobial resistance in the community; the available data are often from small study sites, which do not estimate the extent and burden of

in resistance level, transmission level, and mode of spread, as well as whether or not there is a relationship between transmission for appropriate interventions. It is necessary to develop communication programs for people and drug sellers about the necessity and practical significance of the rational use of antimicrobials following a doctor's prescription.

Information and research data on antimicrobial resistance factors related to antimicrobial resistance of some common bacteria in the community should be brought to clinicians for reference in the community in Vietnam, 2018-2019". The study in the context that in our country, there are no results of microbiological tests in the treatment of hospital infections at the district and commune health stations to be able to prescribe treatment for patients more effectively.

Continuing to research the transmission and transformation of drug-resistant bacteria; communicate research findings to policymakers and clinicians and develop effective intervention programs

1. Objective 1: Assess the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance characteristics of some common bacteria of patients with acquired infections in some provinces of Vietnam, 2018-2019.
2. Objective 2: Describe the current situation of knowledge and use of antimicrobials of patients visiting commune health stations in some provinces of Vietnam, 2018-2019.
3. Objective 3: Determine the genotypic relationship between strains of broad-spectrum antimicrobial-resistant bacteria isolated from patients visiting commune health stations in some provinces of Vietnam, 2018-2019.

***Novelty in scientific and practical values of the topic***

This is the first study of Vietnam on people with acquired infections in many different locations in the North and South regions and evaluates different public

factors.

The study revealed a picture of the resistance genes and antimicrobial resistance levels of two common and critical bacterial species in the community.

The study resulted in people's knowledge about antimicrobial use, an essential factor contributing to the rational use of antimicrobials and reducing antimicrobial use in the community.

Research has identified several Sequence types (ST) of *E. coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*-carrying ESBLs, and carbapenem strains circulating in the community and implications for the association between currently circulating strains in the community and the hospital. This can serve as evidence for the development of antimicrobial policies and interventions in both the hospital and the community.

## STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS

The thesis consists of 164 pages, excluding references and appendices, with 23 tables, 8 figures, and 20 charts, in which: 2 pages of introduction, 46 pages of literature review, 24 pages of research objectives and methods, 60 pages of results, 26 pages of discussion, 2 pages of conclusion, and 1 page of recommendations.

### Chapter 1. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 1.1 Some concepts

Antimicrobials are substances secreted by microorganisms or semi-synthetic and synthetic chemicals, with very low

*E. coli* bacteria are resistant to ciprofloxacin and intermediate, the resistance rate is quite high sulfamethoxazole + trimethoprim with; 88.2% carrying antimicrobial resistance genes, including ESBLs- SHV, TEM, and CTX-M and carbapenemase. *Klebsiella* spp. isolates with very high resistance to antimicrobials: entirely resistant to ampicillin and amoxicillin + clavulanic; 37.3% - 49% resistant to cephalosporins, 13.7% resistant to meropenem.

#### 2. Knowledge of antimicrobial use of patients

Knowledge about antimicrobial use among study population. 64% of respondents have inadequate knowledge and skills. 37.5% of respondents use antimicrobials without a doctor's prescription.

#### 3. Genotypic relationship between *E. coli* strains and *K.pneumoniae* isolated from patients

There are certain associations in genotype and ST types *E.coli* was isolated in the study, including both locally and in different locations. These STs are also STs and in Vietnam. These strains are also strains that are found in community studies in both human and animal samples. *K.pneumoniae* carrying the NDM-4 gene belonging to ST-151 is found in recent outbreaks in hospitals in different regions. The all multi-resistant and all-resistant and have a high mor-

## RECOMMENDATION

communities. More importantly, ST10 is widely distributed in the community and is found in many pigs, chickens, and farm breeds

Hence, the world considers the ST10 strain of *E.coli* as a highly contagious strain from animals such as pigs and chickens to humans

*K.pneumoniae* appeared in various ST15, ST16, ST273

ST1886. We did not find studies on the molecular biology of species in community-acquired infection is an infection occurring in community infections in Vietnam. Compared with *K.pneumoniae* strains analyzed from studies in hospitals in Vietnam, 3 STs have been described in studies at hospitals, namely ST15, ST16, and ST273.

ST15 and ST16 were found more frequently in hospital studies. ST15 was found in only 1 study. ST15 and ST16 are high-risk multidrug-resistant species with genes encoding carbapenems such as blaKPCs, blaNDMs, or blaOXAs. Outbreaks caused by ST15 OXA-48 were reported in France and Spain later, and the strain spread worldwide. In Vietnam, in 2017, ST 15 appeared in *K.pneumoniae* strains isolated at a hospital. These ST15 strains carry many resistance genes, especially carbapenem-producing genes such as KPC, NDM-1, NDM-4, and OXA. In our study, the presence of ST15 carrying the NDM-4 gene and many genes resistant to many different antimicrobial groups, such as beta-lactamase, quinolone, etc., in the community proves that there is a certain spread between strains in the community. hospitals and communities in Vietnam.

## CONCLUSION

1. Antimicrobial resistance characteristics of some bacteria

60.8% of strains of *E.coli* carry antimicrobial resistance genes

isolate to be resistant to at least one antimicrobial class of antimicrobials.

Highly resistant bacteria: Totally resistant is an agent isolated to be resistant to all antimicrobials currently used

Class of antimicrobials.

Community-acquired infection is an infection occurring in community infections in Vietnam. Compared with *K.pneumoniae* strains analyzed from studies in hospitals in Vietnam, 3 STs have been described in studies at hospitals, namely ST15, ST16, and ST273.

## 1.2 Disease burden and antimicrobial resistance bacteria of concern in the world

### 1.2.1 The burden of disease due to antimicrobial resistance

The UK government reckons antimicrobial resistance will kill 10 million people annually by 2050. The United States estimates that 6.5% death rate from antimicrobial-resistant bacteria will result in 23,000 deaths yearly. It is estimated that the number of deaths in the European Union due to selected antimicrobial-resistant bacteria is around 25,000 per year. A new study has estimated that in 2019, globally, 1.27 million deaths from resistant bacteria are related to antimicrobial-resistant bacteria. *E.coli* and *K.pneumoniae* are leading causes of death. According to a new WHO report with data from 68 countries, *E.coli* and *K.pneumoniae* are the most common antimicrobial-resistant agents; especially agents have high rates of multi-resistance and infections are high in both the hospital and the community. *E. coli* and *K.pneumoniae* (94%) are present in bacteremia, and

The estimated global antimicrobial resistance rate and misuse/bone/joint pain (15%). Other studies have reported that *K. pneumoniae* in 2015 was 23.4% and is forecast to reach 50% by 2030. In Israel and Spain, 40% of *K. pneumoniae* isolated in hospitals, the rate was much higher than the study in Thailand has been reported. According to WHO, the occurrence of ESBLs, sore throat was 16.8%, and fever was 19.2%. In Yogyakarta, producing *K. pneumoniae* has now reached prevalence rates of 50% compared with other studies conducted in Yogyakarta (50% in many parts of the world, and resistance rates in the community (29.8%), and Korea (30.6%). The risk of antimicrobial resistance of up to 30% demonstrate the widespread nature of the disease. In the patient's family was 37.5% and in the community was 37.5%. Overall incidence among *Klebsiella* strains spp. resistance to carbapenems was similar to the WHO survey in regional studies. Drug resistance to carbapenems isolated from nosocomial infections in 2015, higher than the survey in the general community was about 12% between 2009 and 2010. In European countries, Malaysia (16.5% within four weeks) and Serbia and Montenegro (16.5%) proportion of KPC-producing strains of *K. pneumoniae* isolated in a risk is lower than reported in Egypt; the risk of antimicrobial resistance in a Greek hospital increased from 0% in 2003 to 38.3% in 2010. In China, the risk of antimicrobial resistance in a hospital in the past 1 month was 54%. The use of antimicrobials in the community contributes significantly to the spread of antimicrobial resistance, mainly KPC-2. In Vietnam, in 2012 and 2013, the ratio *K. pneumoniae* to carbapenem resistance was 14.9%, of which carbapenem resistance was up to 55%.

### 4.3. Genotypic relationship of isolated bacterial strains detected strains

In the community, in recent years, several studies have reported the prevalence of ESBLs-positive bacteria in community-onset infections. In our study, the analysis of the phylogenetic relationship between the studied strains and the genotypic relationship between the studied strains showed that the prevalence of ESBLs-positive bacteria in community-onset infections in China, 16.5% (46/279) in isolated *K. pneumoniae*. In Turkey, 47% of *Klebsiella* spp. born ESBLs in patients with community-acquired urinary tract infections. Some strains belonging to the same ST and having genetic relatedness were found in other studies coming from other localities such as Khanh Hoa, Turkey and India. In addition to ESBLs antimicrobial genes, Ha Nam and Ha Nam show the widespread occurrence of carbapenemase genes. In our study, the presence of carbapenemase genes *bla*<sub>NDM-1</sub> in drug resistance genes in many provinces of Vietnam, *bla*<sub>NDM-4</sub>, *bla*<sub>NDM-5</sub>, as in South India, 19.4% – 22.1% has been detected for the majority (23%) and was present in 100% of *Klebsiella* spp. in communities, and strains in other locations were similar.





produced ESBLs; in France, it was 6% in 2011, and in Germany, it was 6.3%. In 2009, in China, 50.5% of stool samples of healthy people contained ESBLs-producing *E.coli* bacteria; in Thailand, in 2008, the proportion of healthy people carrying ESBL-producing bacteria in stool samples was 61.7%, in which *E. coli* predominated with the rate of 85.1%. In Vietnam, *E.coli*-producing ESBLs appeared in healthy people in the community at relatively high proportion of 53.7% had ESBLs-producing bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract. Thus, the above studies showed that *E. coli*-producing ESBLs were not only present in hospital patients or outpatients but also in healthy people in communities around the world.

## Chapter 2. RESEARCH METHODS

### 2.1. Research subjects

All patients were examined at the commune health station, were diagnosed as having one of the following four diseases: infection, urinary tract infection, pneumonia, and diarrhea. Patients were in accordance with the selection and exclusion criteria and agreed to participate in the study. Case definition of the urinary tract infections, skin infections, diarrhea, and pneumonia (as defined by CDC, USA and WHO).

**2.2. Research period:** Data collection in 2018- 2019. Testing and data analysis 2020-2021.

**2.3 Research location :** 8 communes in 8 provinces: Ha Nam, Bac Ninh and Hai Duong. Thua Thien Hue. Khanh Hoa. Ben Tre and



etc., and basic homology to compare the results of gene sequencing with target gene sequences on the database of NCBI. carried many antimicrobial resistance genes, diverse ST16, ST273 appeared.

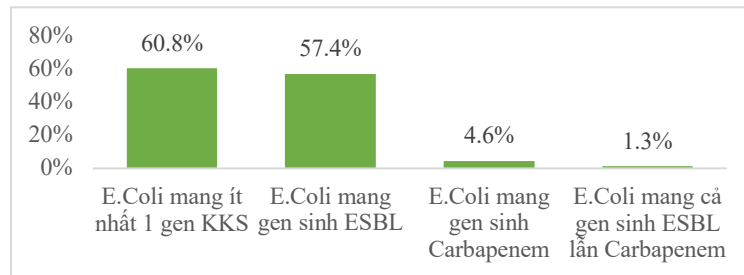
### 2.2.3 Ethics in research

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee in Biomedical Research of the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Document No. IRB- VN01057-38/2016, dated October 21, 2016. Ethical principles in biomedical research are maintained in the conduct of research.

## Chapter 3. RESULTS

### 3.1 Antimicrobial resistance rates of some common bacteria

#### 3.1.1. Molecular biology and antimicrobial resistance of *E. coli* bacteria



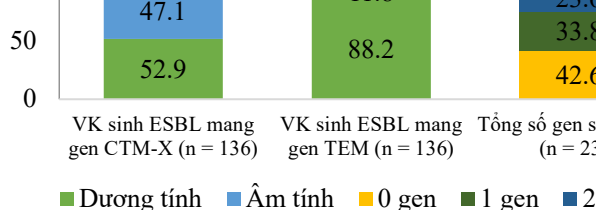
**Figure 3.1. Percentage of *E. coli* carrying antimicrobial resistance genes (N=237)**

Of the 237 *E. coli* isolated, 144 (60.8%) carried at least one antimicrobial resistance gene. The number of bacteria carrying genes encoding ESBLs was up to 136 (57.4%), and the number of bacteria carrying the Carbapenem gene was 11 (4.6%).

is one strain with the same ST as ST10, ST225, ST38 and ST1 appearing at the study sites. There are quite a few strains Similar genotype resistance, including the same site (AHDPH03 a AHDMU12) and different study sites such as two strains in Kha Hoa and Hanoi AKHPH15 and AHNOPH16 or AHNOTH22 a AHNPH48.

**Table 3.22. Characterization of AMR genes in *Klebsiella* spp. by genome sequencing techniques**

Strain code	Carbapenemase- and ESBL genes	MLST	Plasmids
ABN-PH33	blaCTX-M-15, blaSHV-100, blaOXA-9, blaNDM-4	-	IncFIB(K)(pCAV1099-114), IncHI1B(pNDM-MAR), IncFII(K)
ABN-PH34	blaCTX-M-15, blaSHV-100, blaOXA-9, blaNDM-4,	-	IncFIB(K)(pCAV1099-114), IncHI1B(pNDM-MAR), IncFII(K)
AHNOPH17	blaSHV-80, blaDHA-1	ST1886	IncR
AKHPH31	blaSHV-78, blaDHA-1	-	IncFIB(K), IncFII(K), IncR, IncFIB(pNDM-Ma
ATTH-MU39	blaSHV-67, blaTEM-1B, blaNDM-4,	ST273	IncFIB(K)
ATTH-MU48	blaCTX-M-14, blaCTX-M-15, blaLAP-2, blaOXA-9, blaNDM-4,	ST15	IncFIA(HI1), IncR, ColRNAI
ATTH-NT30	blaCTX-M-14, blaLAP-2, blaSHV-100, blaOXA-9, blaNDM-4,	ST15	IncFIB(K), IncFII(K)
ACTNT44	blaSHV-148, blaOXA-181	ST16	ColKP3, IncX3, IncFIB(K)

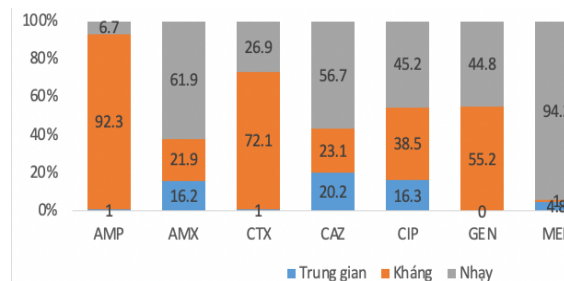


**Figure 3.2. Characteristics of carrying the ESBL (n = 237)**

Among ESBLs-producing strains, TEM and CTX-M were the two primary genes, in which TEM accounted for 23.6%.

CTX-M was 52.9%. The percentage of *E.coli* bacteria

resistant to ampicillin, 21.9% were resistant to amoxicillin/clavulanic acid. With broad-spectrum antimicrobials, 72.1% were resistant to cefotaxime, 20.2% were intermediate to ceftazidime, and 38.5% and 16.3% at the imipenem resistance to the second-generation Quinolone ciprofloxacin was also 38.5% and 16.3% at the imipenem



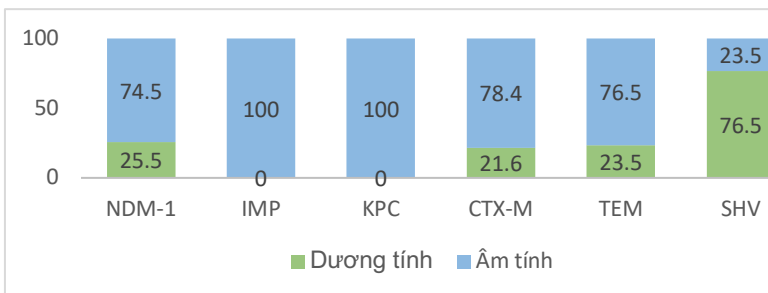
**Figure 3.5. Rate of resistance of *E.coli* strains to antimicrobials**

92.3% *E.coli* resistant to ampicillin, 21.9% were resistant to amoxicillin/clavulanic acid. With broad-spectrum antimicrobials, 72.1% were resistant to cefotaxime, 20.2% were intermediate to ceftazidime, and 38.5% and 16.3% at the imipenem resistance to the second-generation Quinolone ciprofloxacin was also 38.5% and 16.3% at the imipenem

Number of antimicrobial-resistant groups	Number of strains	Ratio (%)	Class
0	4	3.9	Non-resistant
1	11	10.6	(MDR)
2	28	26.9	
3	24	23.1	Multi-resistant (MDR)
4	23	22.1	
5	14	13.5	

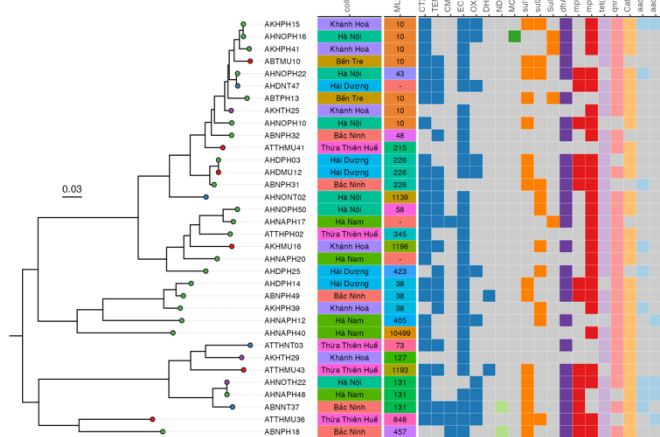
4/104 strains were not phenotypically resistant to any antimicrobials, accounting for 3.9%, and 10.6% of strains were resistant to a group of antimicrobials. The remaining 58.7% were resistant to 3 or more groups of antimicrobials.

### 3.1.3. Molecular biology and antimicrobial resistance of *Klebsiella* spp.



**Figure 3.9 . Antimicrobial resistance gene carrier characteristics of *Klebsiella* spp. (N=51)**

21.6% of strains carrying genes CTX-M and SHV (76.5%). There were 12/51 strains carrying the NDM-1 gene (25.5%) and



**Figure 3.20. The phylogenetic tree shows the relationship of the studied strains and the heat map of genotypes of the isolated ESBL s-bearing *E. coli*.**

The phylogenetic tree diagram shows that the strains are divided into two main groups: the upper group consists of 41 strains belonging to 13 STs, including common ST1193, ST226, and ST38; The remaining group was located in the lower part of the tree, there were eight strains belonging to 6 different STs: ST1193, ST131, ST646, ST457. Phylogenetic analysis of the *bla*<sub>TEM</sub> genes has shown a close relationship between *E. coli* strains from different types of patient samples and from other geographic areas; ST10 was classified as made from latex, faeces, and urine from 3 different cities and provinces: Hanoi, Khanh Hoa, and Hai Duong; ST226 isolated from stool and pus samples in Hai Duong; ST38 isolated from fecal samples in all three provinces

## antimicrobials and antimicrobial resistance

The study used 11 questions to determine people's knowledge about antimicrobials, antimicrobial usage, and antimicrobial resistance. Only 59.6 % of people answered correctly, "Antimicrobials are used to treat bacteria," and 31.4% of people incorrectly answered, "antimicrobials are used to treat viruses," "don't know.", 57% of the respondents answered incorrectly about the disease requiring antimicrobial treatment. The selected wrong *Klebsiella* spp. was resistant to 8 out of 9 answers included "sneezing, runny nose, headache, stomach ache, musculoskeletal pain, don't know."

**Figure 3.10. Resistance percentage of *Klebsiella* with antimicrobials**

100% of strains were resistant to ampicillin; 100% resistant to amoxicillin + clavulanic acid; 37.3% with ceftazidime; 13.7% resistant to meropenem. In the intermediate group, however, the intermediate rate with this anti-

**Table 3.18. Status of antimicrobial use of subjects within 3 months before the time of the study by 3 regions (n=1432)**

Characteristics	Total (n=1432)	North (n=796)	Central Region (n=337)	The South (n=299)	p value
<b>Use of antimicrobials</b>					<0.001
No	895 (62.5%)	463 (58.2%)	243 (72.1%)	189 (63.2%)	
Have	537 (37.5%)	333 (41.8%)	94 (27.9%)	110 (36.8%)	

Patients commonly used antimicrobials within 3 months and there was a statistically significant difference between regions, the North has the highest rate of antimicrobial use (41.8%), followed by the South (36.8%) and the Central region with the lowest rate (27.9%).

Amount of antimicrobials	Number of strains	Frequency (%)	Single-resistance/Multi-resistance	Element	g the KKS gene (n=91)	s the KKS gene (n=18)	Univariate RR (95% CI)
1	18	35.3	Non-multiple	Well water/dug	7 (15,9)	37	0.4 (0.2-0.8) *
2	9	17.6	resistance (MDR)			(84.1)	
3	7	13.7	52.9%				
4	5	9.8	Multiple				
5	8	15.7	Resistance (MDR)		57	147	1
6	4	7.8	47.1%		(27.9)	(72.1)	
			No		34	41	1.6 (1,2-2,3) *
			accounted		(45.3)	(54.7)	

**Get advice from the drug dealer for KS**

Prevalence of multi-resistance of *Klebsiella* spp. accounted for 47.1% of whole bacteria *Klebsiella* spp. All were resistant to at least one antimicrobial group, and the risk of resistance to 5 and 6 antimicrobial groups was up to 23.5%.

**Table 2.15. Some factors related to the non-resistance gene in 2 strains *E.coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. (n = 279); n (%)**

Element	Not carrying the KKS gene (n=91)	Carrying the KKS gene (n=18)	Univariate RR (95% CI)	Multivariate RR (95% CI)	Current status of patients' knowledge of antimicrobial resistance
<b>Main source of water used for drinking</b>					
Machine water	72 (38.3)	116 (61.7)	1	0.9 (0.7-1.1)	1. Công dụng của kháng sinh: 68.6
Rainwater/river/str	12	35	0.7 (0.4-1.1)	0.9 (0.7-1.1)	2. Dấu hiệu bệnh cần dùng kháng sinh: 57
					3. Cách sử dụng kháng sinh cho trẻ em: 80.5
					4. Sử dụng kháng sinh trong điều trị bệnh: 53.4
					5. Chỉ sử dụng kháng sinh khi bác sĩ kê đơn: 88.1
					6. Sử dụng kháng sinh không cần đơn thuốc: 69.1

