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Use of Topical Antibiotics and Non-Antibiotic Alternatives in the Management of Minor Dermatological Conditions: Perceptions and Practices of Argentine Community Pharmacists

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Introduction

- Antibiotic resistance is a major global threat; empirical or inappropriate use of topical antibiotics may contribute to it.
- Community pharmacies are often the first access point for minor skin conditions.
- Pharmacists can promote rational use of antimicrobials and non-antibiotic alternatives.
- Evidence on Argentine pharmacists' perceptions and practices is limited.

Objectives

- Assess the perceptions, experiences and professional practices of Argentine community pharmacists on topical antibiotics and non-antibiotic alternatives in minor dermatological conditions.

Perceptions | **Experiences** | **Professional practices**

Materials and Methods

Questionnaire 15 items (SIFAC) → Adaptation by FEFARA → Expert review → Online survey 10 Mar–10 May 2026

- Cross-sectional observational survey, digital platform, FEFARA mailing list.
- Included: Argentine community pharmacists who agreed to participate.
- Descriptive statistics: absolute frequencies and percentages.

Results: the sample

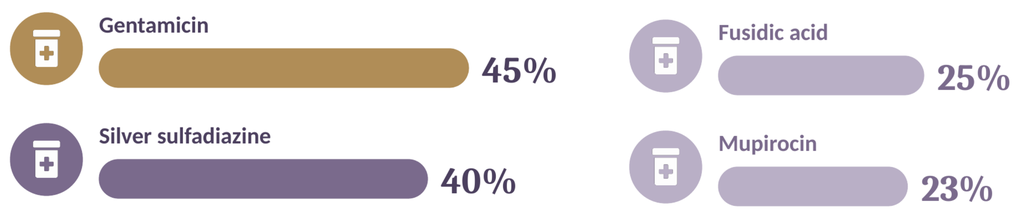
196 community pharmacists

13 Argentine provinces

>79% say antibiotic resistance influences their counselling

Results: daily requests

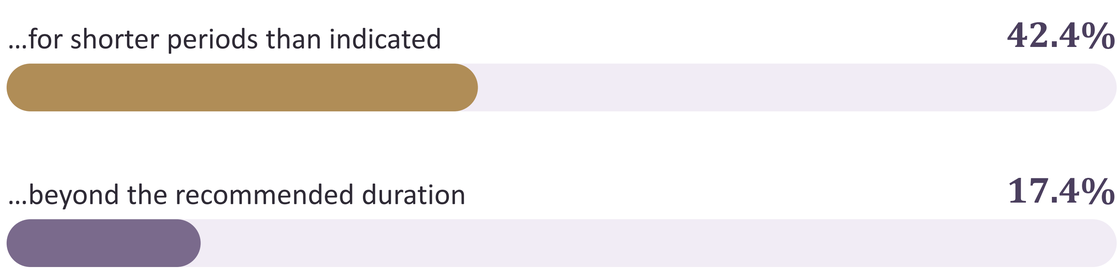
Pharmacists reporting daily requests (%)



Gentamicin and silver sulfadiazine are the most frequently request

Results: duration of use

Pharmacists reporting that patients use topical antibiotics…



Results: alternatives

Non-antibiotic alternatives are widely used, particularly for:

Superficial non-infected lesions | **Dermatitis**

Main perceived benefits



Conclusions

- Good awareness of appropriate topical antibiotic use and antimicrobial resistance.
- Frequent requests, even in inappropriate situations, highlight the pharmacist's role in counselling and health education.
- Professional training in dermatological conditions and appropriate use of topical antibiotics should be strengthened.