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A three-year population-based study of antibiotic treatments for children

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AIM

To describe the use of systemic antibiotics in the paediatric population of the Emilia-Romagna region (Italy) during the period 2000-2002.

METHODS

Data were extracted from the drug prescription database of Emilia-Romagna.

RESULTS

Treatment rates were within the range 1016-1151 treatments per 1000 children-years, according to the observed year. Cephalosporins were the most prescribed antibiotic class.

CONCLUSION

The paediatric population of Emilia-Romagna is heavily exposed to systemic antibiotics. Further studies are needed to find out determinants of antibiotic overuse.