

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

**Manuscript No.: IJAR-58166**

**Title: Prevalence of Self-Medication Among Medical Students at Taif University,**

### Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....

Accept after minor revision.....

**Accept after major revision .....x.....**

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

| Rating         | Excel. | Good | Fair | Poor |
|----------------|--------|------|------|------|
| Originality    |        | x    |      |      |
| Techn. Quality |        | x    |      |      |
| Clarity        |        |      | x    |      |
| Significance   |        |      | x    |      |

**Reviewer's ID: JPR-142**

### Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript demonstrates moderate originality, as numerous studies investigating self-medication practices among university and medical students have already been published both in Saudi Arabia and internationally. The authors should better emphasize the existing knowledge gap and clearly explain how the findings from Taif University contribute new insights beyond the currently available literature. Strengthening the rationale for conducting this study would substantially improve its scientific value.

The methodology requires considerable improvement. The authors have not provided a sample size calculation or statistical justification for including 131 participants, making it difficult to assess whether the study was adequately powered. Furthermore, although a pre-tested and validated questionnaire was used, no information is provided regarding its reliability, validity, pilot testing, or internal consistency measures such as Cronbach's alpha. These methodological details are essential for assessing the quality of the collected data.

The statistical analysis is relatively basic and relies primarily on descriptive statistics and chi-square tests. Considering the study objective of identifying factors influencing self-medication, multivariable logistic regression analysis should be performed to determine independent predictors while controlling for potential confounding variables. Reporting adjusted odds ratios with 95% confidence intervals would substantially strengthen the scientific rigor of the manuscript.

The Results section is generally clear; however, several findings are unnecessarily repeated both in the text and tables. The tables themselves require formatting improvements to enhance readability and should follow the journal's preferred style. Additionally, confidence intervals and effect size estimates should be included wherever

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appropriate. The Discussion adequately compares the findings with previous studies but remains largely descriptive. Greater emphasis should be placed on interpreting the observed knowledge-behavior gap, possible cultural and healthcare system influences, accessibility of medications, health literacy, and implications for antimicrobial stewardship and public health policy. The conclusions should also avoid causal language because the cross-sectional study design only permits identification of associations rather than causation. The manuscript would also benefit from professional English language editing, as several grammatical errors, spacing inconsistencies, and typographical mistakes are present throughout the text. The Ethics section should include the institutional ethics approval number and approval date, and the reference list should be updated with more recent literature where appropriate. Overall, the study addresses an important healthcare issue and has the potential to contribute useful regional epidemiological evidence. However, significant revisions are necessary to improve the methodological rigor, statistical analysis, scientific interpretation, and overall presentation of the manuscript. Therefore, I recommend that the manuscript be accepted only after major revision.

This manuscript addresses an important public health issue and provides recent institutional data on self-medication practices among medical students in Saudi Arabia. However, the scientific rigor requires strengthening before publication. The primary concerns relate to limited novelty, absence of sample size justification, lack of multivariable statistical analysis, inadequate reporting of questionnaire validation, and insufficiently analytical discussion. These issues are remediable, and the manuscript could become publishable after major revision.