

Review of: "A Systematic Review of Antibiotic Use in Humans in Nigeria and Its Potential Contribution to Rising Antimicrobial Resistance"

Nelson Neli

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a very sensitive area of study, especially when it comes to the legislation of antibiotic prescription and use, and the extra burden brought by OTC antibiotic sales. I feel the team did a great job in this systematic review.

I would, however, like to raise the following concerns:

1. The databases searched were insufficient and could have led to overreporting. There are many more sites which the reviewers should have considered; for instance, Google Scholar, HINARI, etc. These sites could provide additional articles, increasing the sample size.
2. Even if it appears that this systematic review is meant for local use in Nigeria, the discussion section needed to compare notes with findings in other countries within Africa. This would make it easier for one to appreciate how big the burden is in Nigeria. I came across a study in Uganda ("Antibiotic Prescription Practices for Children Under Five," for example) reporting up to 75% of prescriptions among children to be irrational.
3. The conclusion that pharmaceutical outlets deal in counterfeit medicines is confusing and raises a big question about the performance of the medicine regulatory authority in the country. If this is a true finding, additional evidence may be required.