

Quick Poll Results: Probiotics and Antibiotics

One side effect of taking an antibiotic may be gastrointestinal (GI) upset. This Quick Poll asked about counseling patients regarding GI interaction when prescribing antibiotics.

According to the 372 respondents of the Probiotic and Antibiotic Quick Poll, 75% ask patients about GI issues while the patient is taking antibiotics. Respondents feel the dentist shares the responsibility, along with the pharmacist, in counseling patients about possible side effects while taking antibiotics, with 86% of the respondents indicating some confidence in discussing and preparing the patient for the possible side effects of the antibiotic prescribed, while only 9% left it up to the pharmacist.

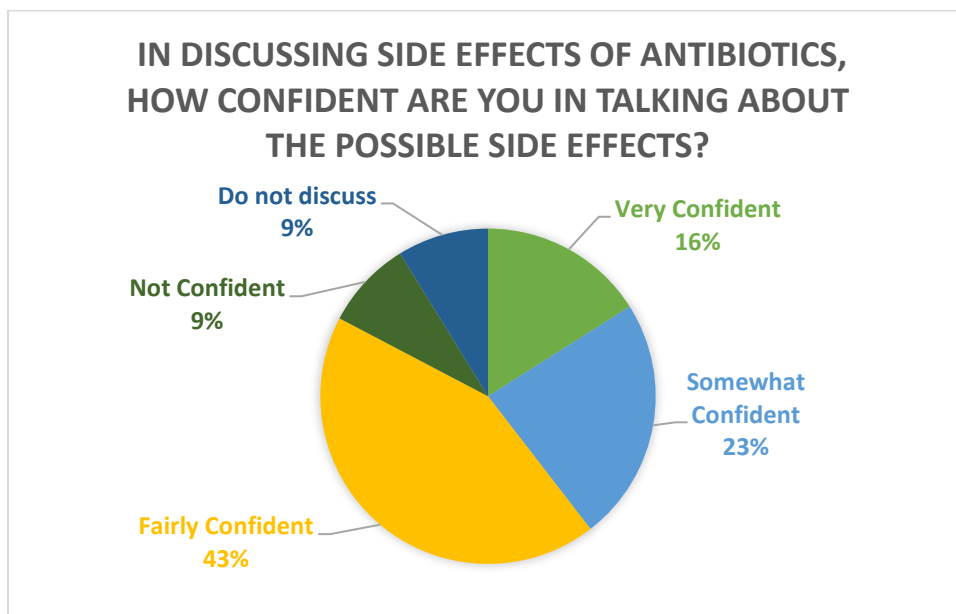
Over half (54%) of the prescribers use the patient medical history as support to their counseling efforts on GI effects and 43% include the possible use of prebiotics, probiotics, and synbiotics during the medical history review.

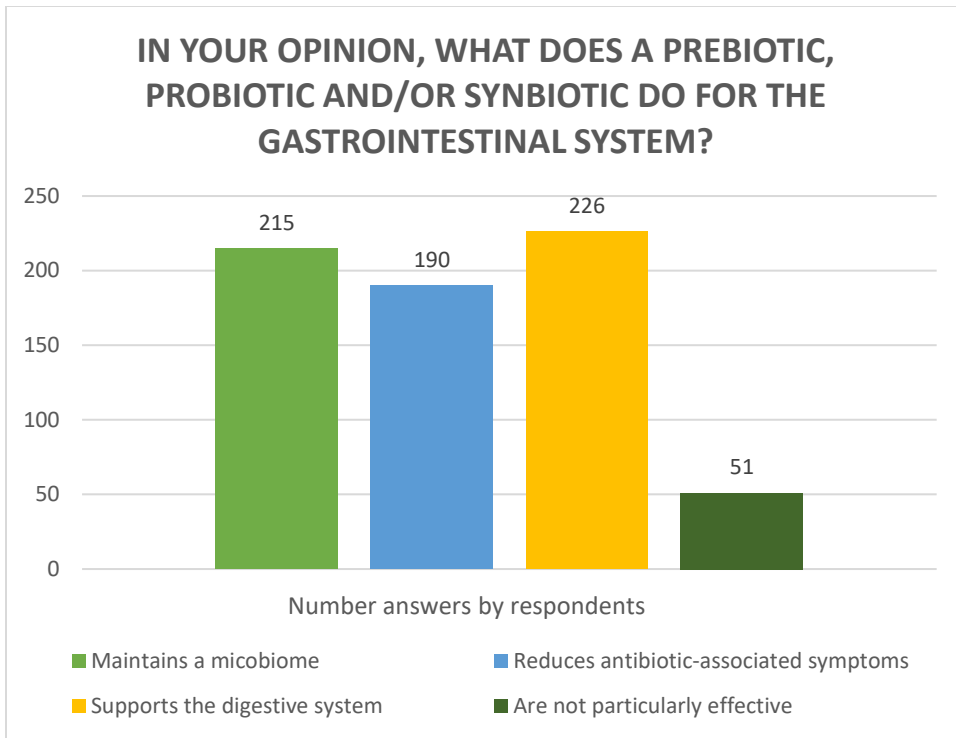
Information on how prebiotics, probiotics, and synbiotics assist a person's GI tract is relatively new. This poll had 62% agreeing that all three support the digestive system while 14% of respondents felt that they are not particularly effective.

Fifty-five percent of respondents felt that in addition to their counseling, the patient should also consult the pharmacist regarding the role of prebiotics, probiotics, and synbiotics while taking an antibiotic.

Comments from respondents included letting patients know that taking an antibiotic with other medications might conflict with the efficacy of the prescribed medication or antibiotic. For example, birth control pills may be less effective. Other comments suggested that if patients are prone to GI issues, they should, at the very least, consider eating yogurt to lessen symptoms.

It appears respondents feel that counseling the patient is a dual role of the dentist and the pharmacist. The patient might very well appreciate the extra effort the dentist or staff share on the relationship between antibiotics and their GI system while attempting to reduce the dental infection.





References:

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