

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

**Non-Prescription Medicine Usage Prevalence in College Students  
Receiving Education in Branch of Medical Sciences**

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**ABSTRACT**

**AIMS:** The objective of this survey was to determine the non-prescription medicine usage prevalence in college students receiving education in branch of Medical Sciences.

**METHODOLOGY:** The study has been conducted on 418 students (349 females, 69 males) in the age group 17-38 (average  $20.26 \pm 2$ ) receiving education in Health College and Health Services Vocational College of Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University. The data of the survey was collected through questionnaire prepared by the surveyors. Before commencing the survey, permission was received from the institution and verbal consent was received from the students. The data was assessed with mean, percentage and chi-square test in SPSS Windows 10.0 package program.

**RESULTS:** Non-prescription medicine usage prevalence in the students is 74.9 % within the past one year. 49.2 % of the students showed the fact that they do not need to see a doctor in diseases widely seen as the justification for non-prescription medicine usage. Non-prescription medicine was found to be used mostly in headache (53.6 %). Non-prescription medicine usage prevalence is higher in the second grade students and students who stay at home with their friends ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**CONCLUSION:** The tendency of using non-prescription medicine is prevalent in students receiving education in branch of medical sciences. It is necessary to develop the sensitivity of students towards rational medicine usage

**KEYWORDS:** Non-prescription medicine usage, prevalence, health, college, students