Introduction

- The World Health Organisation recently raised an alarm concerning moving towards a world without effective antibiotics [The post-antibiotic era]
- It urges medical specialities to review their practices and, where appropriate, amend them to stem the tide.
- Antibiotics are frequently used by plastic surgeons in hand trauma as a prophylaxis
- There is no evidence for use of prophylactic oral antibiotics in simple hand injuries
  
  J. Lane et al. (Open Orthop J. 2012) and GR Murphy et al. (Br J Surg. 2016)
  
- In spite of the current evidence most trusts/hospitals across the UK prescribe oral antibiotics for simple hand injuries
- We performed an audit review our current practice

Aim

- We present a review of the current practice in our unit

Method

- A retrospective review of 300 simple hand injury cases selected over 6 months period (July – December 2017) [out of 2047 trauma cases]
- Patients were identified from the trauma clinic log and the Trust electronic case note records were reviewed
- Prescription of oral antibiotics upon review was analysed

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>300</td>
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Demographics

| Mean Age (years)       | 43 [Range 18 - 89] |

Sex

| Male : Female | 1.2 : 1 |

Prophylactic Antibiotics

- Yes: 68.3% (1.7%)
- No: 16.7% (2.2%)
- Unknown: 15.0%

Conclusion

- There is a routine prescription of oral antibiotics in simple hand trauma cases
- This increases the trust/hospitals expenditure and the risk of antibiotic resistance
- We encourage other departments to look at their practice
- Re-audit
  - To bring our practice in line with current guideline

References