



Knowledge on identification, immediate management and prevention of allergic reactions among beauticians in gampaha district



Nayanananda DGTP, Nishakara SNS, Nirosha WPR, Nishshanka NMDNK,
Nishshanka NMPS

Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Introduction and aims

Data on knowledge on allergic reactions of beauticians of Sri Lanka is scarce. Therefore, we aimed to describe knowledge on identification, immediate management and prevention, of allergic reactions of beauticians of Sri Lanka.

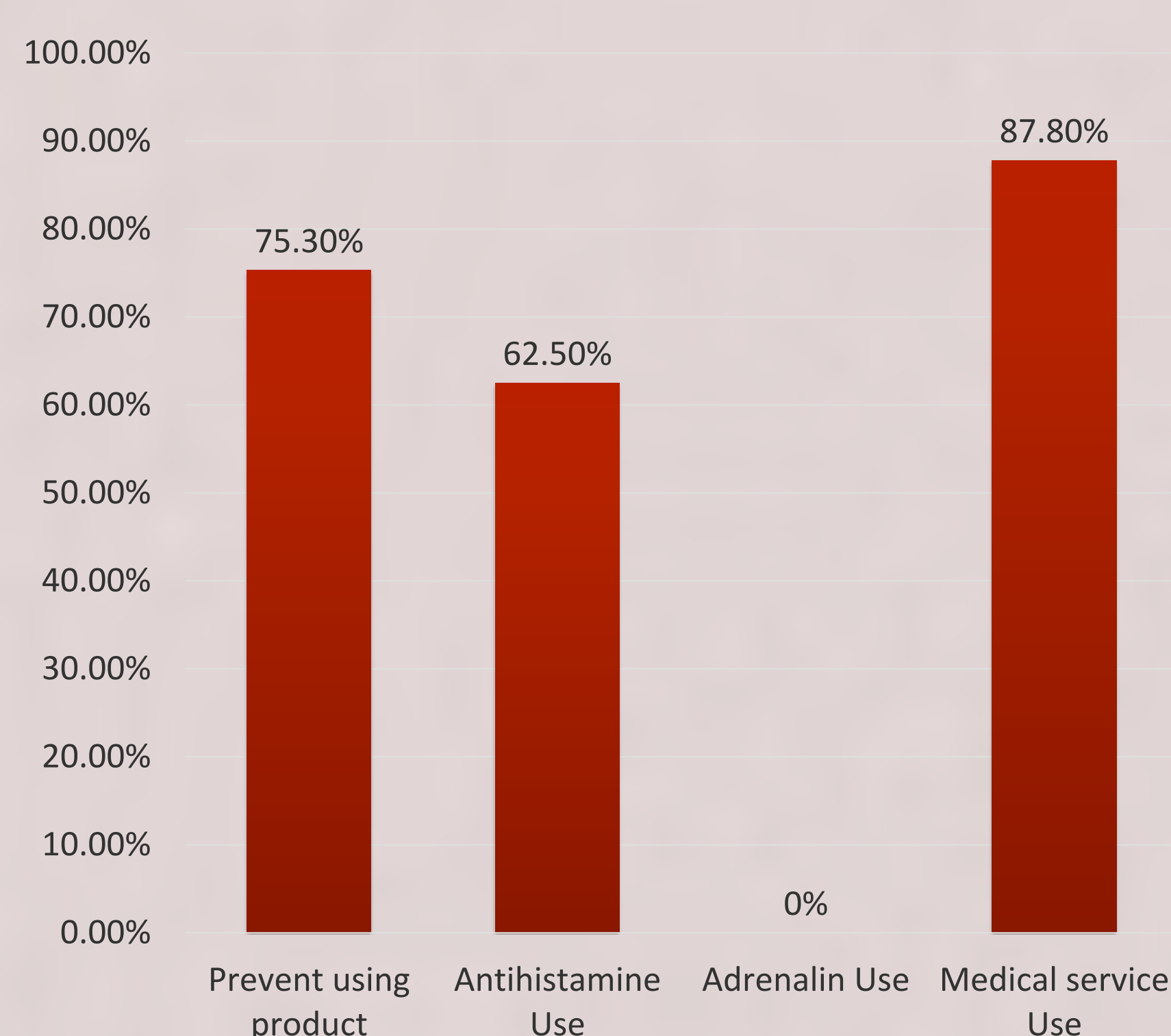
Method

A descriptive study was conducted among 400 randomly selected beauticians of Gampaha district from July 2019 to February 2020. Data were collected using a self-administered questionnaire.

Results

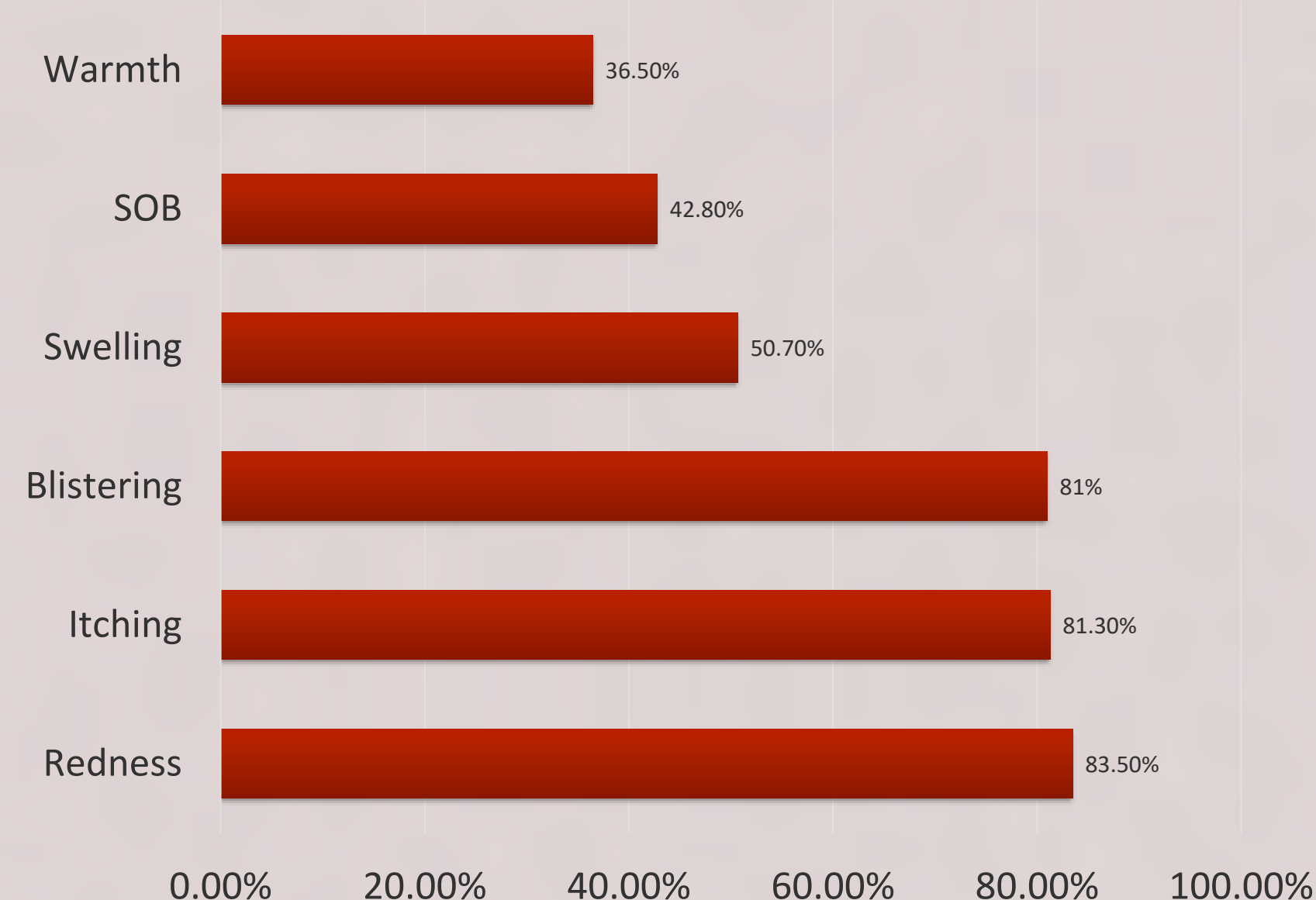
- 400 beauticians, 344 (86%) female, mean age 30 ± 7.3 years were studied.
- 392 (98%) has had some training in the profession but only 255 (63.8%) had training on allergic reactions.
- Almost all, 399 (99.8%) knew the word "allergy" and 387 (96.8%) appreciated allergies could occur with cosmetics.
- The common signs/symptoms of allergies identified were; redness 83.5%, itching 81.3%, rashes 81.0%, swelling 49.3%, and difficulty in breathing 42.8%.

- 264 (66%) knew allergies could cause death.
- 92 (23.0%) had experienced allergies in practice. In such situations,
 - 75.3% had stopped using the culprit product,
 - 37.5% had given an antihistamine
 - 87.8% had directed clients for medical care.



Post Allergy Actions

- As preventive measures, 392 (98%) inquired about past history of allergy and 340 (85%) performed patch tests before procedures.
- Common symptoms of allergy they had identified,



Identification of allergy symptoms

- 250 (62.5%) were aware of using antihistamines but none were aware of adrenaline pens.
- 77.3% had contact details of an ambulance at hand, in an emergency.

Conclusion

- The knowledge on skin related symptoms and signs of allergies was good but that of systemic symptoms was poor among beauticians in Gampaha district.
- Nearly 1/3 of training courses did not teach about allergic reactions and therefore, awareness could be raised by incorporating this in their training courses.

Recommendations

- Conducting same research in other districts of Sri Lanka would expand the research objectives and would assist in incorporating allergy management to beauticians training program.

References

1. Sjøsted H, Hesse U, Menné T, Andersen KE, Johansen JD. Contact dermatitis to hair dyes in a Danish adult population: An interview-based study. *Br J Dermatol.* 2005; 153(1), 132-135
2. Wenzel SM, Welzel J, Hafner C, Landthaler M, Bäuml W. Permanent make-up colorants may cause severe skin reactions. *Contact Dermatitis.* 2010; 63(4), 223-227

Acknowledgement

Sincere gratitude to Department of Public health for their invaluable guidance and all the beauticians in Gampaha district who participated & spared their valuable time to take part in this study.