



MEDICAL THERAPIES AND PHARMACOLOGY

## ESTIMATION OF WASTAGE OF MEDICATION IN TUBES: A CROSS- SECTIONAL STUDY IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

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**BACKGROUND:** Topical medicaments in dermatology are usually dispensed in tubes which can be either metallic or in lamitubes. Some amount material may be left over in the tube and tube may be considered by the patient as empty.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To find out the average amount of medication (in grams) left over in the tubes when the patient considers it to be empty.
2. To find the correlation between the amount left and the formulation, material of the tube and patient demographic data.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** The patients coming to Dermatology OPD, Kasturba Hospital, Manipal and having tubes which they consider to be empty were taken up for the study after taking an informed consent in English or Kannada. The tubes were slit open and the remaining medication was weighed.

Data was entered in SPSS and analysed using Kruskal Wallis test and Mann-Whitney test.

**RESULTS:** Statistically significant amount of wastage both in amount and cost were seen between lamitubes and metallic tubes ( $p < 0.05$ )

**CONCLUSION:** Dispensing of medicaments in metallic tubes rather than lamitubes is more cost saving for the patient

