

Table 5 Distribution of self-medication purchasers (n = 1050) at Alexandria pharmacies by knowledge and practice about the drug purchased

Knowledge/practice about drug purchased	No.	%
Knowledge of:		
Dose		
Yes	123	11.7
No	927	88.3
Side-effects		
Yes	15	1.4
No	975	92.9
Will read in information sheet	60	5.7
Precautions		
Yes	5	0.5
No	1005	95.7
Will read in information sheet	40	3.8
Contraindications		
Yes	8	0.8
No	1002	95.4
Will read in information sheet	40	3.8
Practice:		
Expected duration of use		
Until complaint disappears	728	69.3
Until drug finishes	297	28.3
Adjusted by adviser	25	2.4
Read patient information sheet		
Yes	531	50.6
No	519	49.4
Reasons for not reading information sheet		
Difficult to read	177	34.0
Confidence in pharmacist	44	8.5
Difficult to understand	243	46.8
Written in English	18	3.5
No need to read it	37	7.2
Followed pharmacist's label instructions		
Yes	528	50.3
No	522	49.7
Read expiry date		
Yes	653	62.2
No	397	37.8