Summary

- The study generated an antibiogram based on the data gathered from antimicrobial susceptibility (AMS) patterns in hospitalized patients with diabetic foot infections (DFIs) in a South-Indian tertiary care teaching hospital.
- Knowledge about the common causative organisms in DFIs and their AMS patterns, which helped us to generate the antibiogram, is highly relevant in the Indian context, particularly because of the mounting incidence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in our country coupled with lack of guidelines for antimicrobial agent (AMA) prescriptions.
- This antibiogram will enable clinicians to make informed choices on employing AMA based on clinical context: for instance doxycycline and meropenem would be primary AMA choice for the empirical therapy of Gram-positive and Gram-negative organisms, respectively.
- The study has also revealed the disquieting presence of multidrug-resistant (MDR) Acinetobacter spp. in DFIs, which is either relatively or totally resistant to all the AMAs tested.
- DFU and associated infections, especially with MDR organisms, severely compromise HRQoL in DFU patients even beyond diabetes pathology.
- Our findings imply that compared to diabetics, DFU patients have much poorer HRQoL in all domains especially, physical functioning, role limitations due to physical health and role limitations due to emotional health.
- This study helped in developing a patient-education (PE) model for DFU patients by examining the various HRQoL domains that are adversely affected by DFU and associated complications.
- Pharmacist-led PE with patient information leaflet (PIL) has a significant positive impact on the patient’s knowledge on DFU.
- Our educational intervention supplemented with the PIL, which is the first of its kind to be reported from India, has been systematically demonstrated the central role of PE in improving HRQoL of DFU patients, which is particularly relevant in the context of resource poor developing countries.