

Table 1 Background characteristics of the 2 hospitals, types of surgeries investigated for antibiotic use and summaries of prescribing indices

Variable	Thabet hospital	Rafidia hospital
<i>Hospital characteristics</i>		
Total beds (no.)	110	205
Beds in surgical unit (no.)	42	44
Surgical units (no.)	7	11
Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians (no.)	8	10
Patients admitted during study period (no.)	100	100
Total bed-days during study period (no.)	308	365
Mean (SD) length of hospital stay (days/patient)	3.08 (2.34)	3.65 (2.52)
<i>Patient characteristics</i>		
% male	53	46
Mean (SD) age (years)	36.0 (16.0)	36.4 (18.6)
<i>Type of surgery^a (%)</i>		
Appendectomy	40	42
Cholecystectomy	11	13
Hernioplasty	18	9
Mastectomy	2	4
<i>Prescribing indices</i>		
Total DDD (no.)	414.1	592.0
DDD per 100 bed-days (no.)	133.6	162.2
DU90% drugs/total drugs (no.)	4/9	5/8
Total drugs in DU90% segment (no.)	395.1	570.1
Total cost of DU90% drugs (NIS)	23 222	23 484
Total cost of DC90% drugs (NIS)	22 862	23 014

^aMost common operations.

SD = standard deviation; DDD = defined daily dose; DU90% = drug utilization 90% index; DC90% = drug cost 90% index; NIS = new Israeli shekels.