

**BUYING OTC- OVER-THE-COUNTER - DRUGS IN PREVENTION AND  
TREATMENT OF INFECTIONS OF THE UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT**

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OTC (over-the-counter) drugs are a fast developing branch of the pharmaceutical industry, both in Poland and in the world. The aim of the work was to evaluate the factors that have influence on the buying of OTC drugs in prevention and treatment of the upper respiratory tract. The analysis was carried out on the basis of the medical examination and inquiry into the sick person's environment. The analysis involved 250 persons, chosen at random, at the age from 19 to 80 years, as well as OTC drugs distributors and salesmen. Despite much controversy over the use of such drugs, and despite the lack of clinical data on the safety and efficiency of the treatment, OTC drugs should be an important element in the treatment of the upper respiratory track diseases in all age groups.