# Article information:

Machine learning vs. magic medicine – DW – 06/30/2021  
<https://www.dw.com/en/antibiotics-use-in-africa-machine-learning-vs-magic-medicine/a-58097028>

# Article summary:

1. The DYNAMIC/ePOCT+ Project is a collaboration between researchers in Tanzania and Rwanda to improve healthcare for children aged 0-15.

2. The project aims to reduce the use of antibiotics to treat illnesses that don't respond to them, such as viral infections.

3. A pilot study found that prescriptions of antibiotics dropped from 70% in Rwanda and 63% in Tanzania to 13% and 19% respectively when using ePOCT+.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article “Machine learning vs. magic medicine” is an informative piece about the DYNAMIC/ePOCT+ Project, a collaboration between researchers in Tanzania and Rwanda to improve healthcare for children aged 0-15 by reducing the use of antibiotics to treat illnesses that don’t respond to them, such as viral infections. The article provides a detailed overview of the project, its goals, and its results from a pilot study which found that prescriptions of antibiotics dropped from 70% in Rwanda and 63% in Tanzania to 13% and 19% respectively when using ePOCT+.

The article is generally reliable and trustworthy; it provides evidence for its claims with quotes from doctors involved in the project, as well as data from the pilot study. It also presents both sides of the issue fairly by noting potential risks associated with overprescribing antibiotics, as well as highlighting the need for clinicians in African countries to be on the safe side when treating patients with fever due to dangerous tropical diseases like malaria or typhoid.

However, there are some points missing from consideration. For example, while it mentions that “most diseases are viral” it does not provide any evidence or sources for this claim. Additionally, while it notes potential risks associated with overprescribing antibiotics, it does not explore any counterarguments or other possible solutions for reducing antibiotic use. Finally, there is no mention of potential biases or conflicts of interest related to the research team behind DYNAMIC/ePOCT+, which could affect their results or conclusions.

In conclusion, while this article is generally reliable and trustworthy overall, there are some points missing from consideration which could affect its trustworthiness if explored further.

# Topics for further research:

* Antibiotic overprescription risks
* Alternatives to antibiotics for treating viral infections
* Evidence for most diseases being viral
* Conflicts of interest in medical research
* Biases in medical research
* Tropical diseases in African countries

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/16d06c54b0806369d1ccd56dadf721c2>