



Antimicrobial Resistance: No Action Today, No Cure Tomorrow

Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security and development today. Antibiotic resistance occurs naturally, but misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals is accelerating the process. Antibiotic resistance leads to longer hospital stays, higher medical costs and increased mortality. No one can completely avoid the risk of resistant infections, but some people are at greater risk than others (for example, people with chronic illnesses). A growing number of infections – such as Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Gonorrhoea, and Salmonellosis – are becoming harder to treat as the antibiotics used to treat them become less effective.

To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, individuals can:

- Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a certified health professional and choose foods that have been produced without the use of antibiotics for growth promotion or disease prevention in healthy animals.
- Antibiotic resistance is putting the achievements of modern medicine at risk. Organ transplantations, Chemotherapy and Surgeries such as Caesarean Sections become much more dangerous without effective antibiotics for the prevention and treatment of infections.

The “Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance” has five strategic objectives:

- (i) To improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance.
- (ii) To strengthen surveillance and research.
- (iii) To reduce the incidence of infection.
- (iv) To optimize the use of antimicrobial medicines.
- (v) To ensure sustainable investment in countering antimicrobial resistance.

World Antibiotic Awareness Week

Held every November since 2015 with the theme “Antibiotics: Handle with care”, the global, multi-year campaign has increasing volume of activities during the week of the campaign.

(Source: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antimicrobial-resistance>)

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