

Only through rational use of medicines will we keep life-saving antibiotics for future generations ...

... ReAct Now!

The effectiveness of antibiotics is challenged by irrational use of medicines

We are witnessing the emergence of diseases, such as extremely drug resistant tuberculosis and multiply-resistant blood stream infections caused by Gramnegative bacteria, for which health systems are ill-prepared and our drug armamentarium inadequate.

People are dying from infections due to a lack of effective therapy

Estimates show that in South Asia alone, one newborn baby dies every second minute due to treatment failure caused by antibiotic resistance causing over 300,000 excess deaths from neonatal sepsis in this region. About 3 million women are at risk of impaired fertility following failure in treatment of gonorrhoea. Mortality due to blood infections with methicillin resistant Staphylococci (MRSA) can be almost up to double in comparison with non-resistant strains. In Israel, more than 3% of all hospital mortality is caused by multiresistant Gramnegative bacteria.

Antibiotic resistance imposes significant costs on the health care system

Outpatient costs stemming from antimicrobial resistance in the United States are estimated to lie between US\$400 million and US\$18.6 billion, and inpatient costs are likely to be several times higher. The use of antibiotics other than first-line treatment may increase costs 100-folds, making them unaffordable for many governments and patients. To treat drug-resistant neonatal sepsis in South Asia with second-line antibiotic therapy would cost an additional US\$120 million per year.

Effective monitoring is key to protecting the public's health from resistant bacteria

Regular monitoring of drug use and resistance are vital for producing treatment guidelines for bacterial diseases, to minimize the risk for treatment failure. Rational use will require better diagnostics and new drugs to treat resistant infections. Only two new classes of antibiotics have been developed in the last 30 years. Rapid diagnostics would significantly help rational use and prolong the lifespan of available drugs.

A strong resolution for rational use of medicines would

- call for establishing national programs for monitoring the use of medicines,
- ensure coordinated implementation of strategies that promote rational use,
- recognize the importance of financing drugs and the impact of methods of provider payment on rational use,
- build on the use of Essential Drug Lists and local monitoring to promote rational use,
- work for improved and novel approaches to stimulate innovation for diagnostics, drugs, and vaccines to improve rational use

We need a strong Resolution on the Rational Use of Medicines at the WHA in May

ReAct supports a resolution that

- enables WHO to provide necessary technical assistance to Member States and national coordinating bodies, along with NGOs, to implement this resolution,
- provides a floor budget of no less than USD 30 million over six years for effective implementation of this resolution

For more information, please contact:

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ReAct is a newly founded international coalition with the mission that current and future generations of people around the globe should have access to effective treatment of bacterial infections.

**ReAct**
Action on Antibiotic Resistance