



What are antibiotics?

Antibiotics are medicines used to treat infections or diseases caused by bacteria



How do antibiotics work?

Antibiotics work by killing the bacteria, or stopping them from multiplying. This helps the body's natural immune system to fight the bacterial infection.

What is antibiotic resistance?

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change itself to protect themselves from an antibiotic. When this happens, antibiotics that previously would have killed the bacteria, or stopped them from multiplying, no longer work

Why antibiotic resistance happens?

Antibiotics resistance happens when we start misusing or overusing the antibiotics

How does antibiotic resistance affect me?

Using antibiotics when you don't need them may mean that they won't work for you when you do need them in the future.



If you have an antibiotic-resistant bacterial infection:

- You will have the infection for longer
- You may be more likely to have complications of the infection
- You could remain infectious for longer, and pass your infection to other people, which increases the problem.

The most important way to reduce or prevent antibiotic resistance is by educating yourself about the proper use of antibiotics.

Steps to reduce antibiotic resistance

- Use antibiotics only if prescribed by your doctor.
- Don't take antibiotics for common cold
- Never take antibiotics that were prescribed for someone else
- Do not take antibiotics that were left over from a previous infection
- If antibiotics are prescribed for you, finish them even if you feel better

