Antibiotic resistance represents one of the gravest threats we face to global public health. Antibiotics are becoming less effective due to bacteria naturally evolving to become more resistant to drugs. In 2019, it was predicted that 1.27 million deaths worldwide would be directly attributed to antibiotic resistance by 2050. It could be responsible for 10 million deaths a year.

Despite the consequences of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), there is a lack of new antibiotics making it to market and only one new class of antibiotics has been launched in recent decades, but why is this?

- Developing a new antibiotic is a challenge, both scientifically and financially.
- Bacteria and other micro-organisms have evolved to avoid attacks by chemicals, such as antibiotics. They can double every 20 minutes and rapidly adapt to hostile environments, which creates a need for large doses of antibiotics.
- It is therefore very difficult to discover medicines that are both highly effective and sufficiently safe at high doses.

Developing a new antibiotic is a challenge, both scientifically and financially.

Rising resistance in uncomplicated urinary tract infections

Uncomplicated urinary tract infections (uUTIs) are one of the most common infections in women in the community. They are caused by a bacterium called Escherichia coli (or E. coli). The World Health Organization (WHO) has put E. coli on a critical list of pathogens responsible for AMR and it has been reported that...

More than 90% of uUTIs are already resistant to a commonly-used antibiotic.

uUTIs can have limitations on women’s lives, including discomfort, potential days off work and they can put a strain on intimate relationships.

Our commitment

- GSK is one of the few pharmaceutical companies committed to investing in this space and is using its 70 years of expertise to help the fight against bacterial threats.
- As well as progressing possible new antibiotics, GSK is also investigating vaccines that could help combat AMR.

Nobody can outwit AMR alone. There has never been a better time for us to come together and take A Moment to Reset.

References

13. WHO. Global priority list of antibiotic-resistant bacteria to guide research, discovery, and development of new antibiotics. 2017. Available from: https://www.bmj.com/content/358/bmj.j38