



AMR:- need for urgent action

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AMR or antimicrobial resistance is all set to be the driving force behind the next pandemic. The global health community is now slowly and progressively facing the silently emerging pandemic of AMR that might endanger some of the most significant advances in modern medicine(1). MRSA, VRE and CRE are very common in the hospital setting. It is predicted that nearly 10 million people will die from AMR in 2050(2). Even minor infections are becoming difficult to treat now, due to the menace of AMR. Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin, had postulated that the day would not be far when antibiotic resistance will be rampant. This menace has arisen mainly due to the overuse and misuse of antibiotics, in the community as well as the hospital(3).

Sometimes antibiotics are also used as growth promoters, especially in animal husbandry. This leads to release of some unaltered antibiotics in the soil, which is very dangerous. Also, very few new antibiotics have been discovered in the last decade, since developing new antibiotics is often not very profitable. Hence AMR is fast becoming unmanageable. Things like antibiotic audit, antibiotic ward round and other practices of antibiotic stewardship will go a long way in combating the problem of AMR. Empirical chemotherapy should always be discouraged. One also needs to emphasize social hand washing to eliminate multi drug-resistant germs better. Vaccination and safe biomedical waste disposal will also be greatly helpful. IEC and BCC activities should be encouraged to further the cause of mitigating AMR. This will help generate public awareness about antibiotics and their rational usage. Citizens should realize that antibiotics should be bought only with proper prescription and are of no or minimal use in general cough an cold. These important aspects should be ingrained in our minds to curb the menace of AMR.

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