

ANTIMICROBIALS - I

SIDE EFFECTS OF ANTIMICROBIALS AND PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES

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Abstract: Antibiotics though life-saving drugs, may have side effects varying in severity from trivial to life-threatening. The side effects include local irritant effects, systemic toxicity, drug hypersensitivity reactions, drug interactions and intestinal dysbiosis. Intestinal dysbiosis has widespread and long lasting effects in a person including the risk of development of diseases with immunological basis, including asthma, allergic diseases and diabetes mellitus. Antibiotics are considered as societal drugs, their side effects are not restricted only to the treated individual as their use is an important modifiable factor that can result in the development of drug resistant bacteria and therapeutic failure.

Keywords: Side effects, Drug resistance, Antimicrobial stewardship programme, Drug hypersensitivity

reactions, Drug interactions, Intestinal dysbiosis.

Points to Remember

- *The side effects of antibiotics are not restricted to the person who consumed the drug, the effect also extends to the society by the development of drug resistance.*
- *Systemic side effect can affect every organ system leading to serious consequences.*
- *Though hypersensitivity reactions are rare, sometimes they may be life threatening.*
- *Inappropriate use of antibiotics is the major cause for development of drug resistance which will lead to deleterious consequences in the individual and the society at large.*
- *Antibiotics are lifesaving drugs and side effects are unavoidable. But there are strategies to prevent or limit the side effects.*
- *Rational antibiotic prescription practices and antibiotic stewardship programs are the only measures to curtail the rapidly increasing menace of drug resistance.*

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