Antimicrobials: a simple overview

Antimicrobials are medicines used to prevent and treat infections caused by microorganisms in humans, animals, and plants.

**Antibiotics** (also known as antibacterials)

Prevent or treat infections caused by bacteria such as cellulitis, urinary tract infection, tuberculosis (TB), sexually transmitted infections (STIs) like gonorrhoea.

**Antivirals**

Prevent or treat infections caused by viruses such as HIV, flu chickenpox/shingles or COVID-19.

**Antifungals**

Prevent or treat infections caused by fungi such as thrush, ring worm and athlete’s foot.

**Antiparasitics**

Prevent or treat infections caused by parasites such as malaria, threadworm and headlice.

Antimicrobial Resistance: when the microorganisms change or mutate over time and get to a point where they no longer respond to medicines previously used to treat them.

RESIST

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