

ANTIBIOTIC ABUSE : A THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH

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Antibiotics drugs are chemical compounds which are used to control bacterial infections. They are classified in different forms according to their mode of action against pathogens. There are more than 40,000 brands of antibiotics available in market in different formulations for the treatment by humans and animals around the world e.g., quinolones, macrolides, cephalosporins, aminoglycosides etc. Excessive and uncontrolled use of these drugs has created resistant microbes which pose serious health hazards to humans. Plasmid, which is an extra-nuclear circular DNA (Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid) in microbes, causes resistance against the antibiotics. The main cause behind the rise of multi-resistant pathogens is abuse of antibiotics. International organizations like World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Drug administration (FDA) and United Nations (UN) have identified the 'antibiotic abuse' as international concern. In this review, an attempt has been made to study the various factors responsible for the abuse of antibiotics in prevalent Indian conditions. It includes ignorance of people, self medication, unhygienic conditions and sometimes wrong medical prescription.
