

# Antibiotic resistance and the commensal flora: role of the commensal flora in the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance

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1. The resistance present in potentially pathogenic micro-organisms is only the tip of the ice-berg in comparison with the resistance present in the commensal flora.
2. The commensal flora represents a large reservoir of resistance genes which can be transferred to potentially pathogenic micro-organisms.
3. The influence of hospitalisation on the antibiotic resistance of the commensal faecal flora of 'healthy' people is temporarily.
4. The lack of an implemented antibiotic policy together with the uncontrolled sales of antimicrobials will lead to high resistance percentages in the commensal faecal flora of healthy volunteers.
5. Surveillance of antibiotic resistance in the most common uropathogens in patients of different age groups is important to guide general practitioners in their choice of empiric therapy for urinary tract infections.
6. Antimicrobial resistance manifests globally, but originates locally.  
(Stuart B. Levy, CMI 8 suppl. 3, 2000)
7. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
8. Emerging resistance: 'Resistance whose prevalence has increased in the past few decades or whose prevalence threatens to increase in the near future'.  
(Adapted from Microbial Treats to Health, Detection and Response 2003)
9. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.  
(Goethe)
10. Change is the law of life.  
And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future.  
(John F. Kennedy)
11. Science is one of the few things you multiply by sharing.  
(adapted from Dr. Hans Kooistra)