Pfizer in Anti-Infectives

Why do we need anti-infectives?

Anti-infectives underpin modern medicine as we know it, helping to treat and cure many kinds of infection. Thanks to anti-infectives, we can:

• treat minor infections and cure serious infectious diseases
• perform routine procedures and complex surgery, which carry a risk of serious infection
• give vital immune-suppressive treatment to people with cancer

What causes infection?

Infectious diseases continue to be one of the biggest global public health concerns. Infections are caused by different types of pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, and can be acquired in the community or in a hospital or healthcare setting (HAIs).

Bacterial infections range from relatively minor such as skin or gastrointestinal infections, to serious and life-threatening, such as bloodstream infections or pneumonia. Most bacteria are classified as Gram-positive or Gram-negative. The latter are harder to treat due to their cell structure and their ability to develop resistance to commonly used antibiotics.

Fungal infections range from the superficial such as athlete’s foot or vaginal thrush to life-threatening, invasive infections in immunocompromised patients, such as those with cancer.

Viral infections range from common, self-resolving colds, to serious, long-term infections like hepatitis. Vaccination prevents some viral infections, like influenza and many childhood infections.

Parasitic infections can affect anyone, anywhere, but are a particular burden on people living in the tropics and sub tropics. They are caused by an organism living on or in a host and include malaria, toxoplasmosis and intestinal worms.

Multi-drug resistant infections, particularly those caused by Gram-negative bacteria, are widely recognized as one of the biggest threats to global health today. They are the result of bacteria and other pathogens being able to change and develop resistance to antimicrobials.

Pfizer’s commitment in anti-infectives

Pfizer recognizes the medical needs of people suffering from infectious diseases, and is committed to being a holistic provider of prevention and treatment solutions beyond just medicines.

• We are proud of our longstanding heritage of partnering with the infectious disease community to address evolving and unmet medical needs across all four types of infection – bacterial, fungal, viral and parasitic.
• Pfizer currently offers one of the industry’s largest and most diverse portfolios of anti-infectives.
• We also provide vaccines that help reduce the use of antimicrobials and help protect people from infections.

References

10 Cox R. Fungal infections range from the superficial such as athlete’s foot or vaginal thrush to life-threatening, invasive infections in immunocompromised patients, such as those with cancer.
13 Cox R. Fungal infections range from the superficial such as athlete’s foot or vaginal thrush to life-threatening, invasive infections in immunocompromised patients, such as those with cancer.
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