

0.1 Background

0.1.1 Cause and urgency of antibiotic resistance

The discovery of Penicillin, the first antibiotic, shortly before the Second World War has revolutionized human medicine in the western world by saving the lives of millions of soldiers and civilians. It also made major advances in surgery possible. Ever since then antibiotics play a very important role in our well established health system and we are depending on those drugs in order to fight bacterial infections.

Because of the positive experience people made during the Second World War with antibiotics, they quickly started to use them in an irresponsible way. This caused a Penicillin resistance within 32 years after it's discovery. Therefore people realized early on, that extensive use of antibiotics causes resistance. But the discovery of new antibiotics gave them confidence and the excess of usage of antibiotics went on. Not only were antibiotics continuously prescribed inappropriately they also got introduced into agriculture. Unfortunately the tendency of irresponsible use of antibiotics increased in the last couple decades.