Health Care Without Harm

SAFEGUARDING COLISTIN: A CRUCIAL ANTIMICROBIAL FOR HUMAN HEALTH

GLOBAL USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS IN FOOD PRODUCTION

70%
of all antibiotics consumed globally are consumed by animals
UN Environment (2017)

Antimicrobial use for livestock will increase by
67%
between 2017 and 2030
Van Boeckel et al. (2015)

Reducing antibiotic use in farm animals decreases the prevalence of

antibiotic-resistant bacteria in animals by
15%

multidrug-resistant bacteria in animals by
24-32%

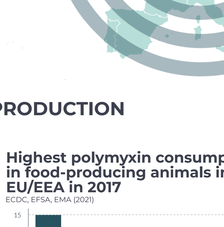
Tang et al. (2017)

USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS IN FOOD PRODUCTION IN EUROPE

14% of antimicrobial sales for animals in 2018 in Europe were antimicrobials identified as 'critically important' for human medicine by the WHO
EMA (2020)

Active antimicrobial substances sold in 2018 in EU/EEA
ECDC, EFSA, EMA (2021)

Highest consumption of antimicrobials in food production in the EU/EEA
ECDC, EFSA, EMA (2021)



Simple resistance or multi-resistance to various antibiotics was found in more than half of chicken meat samples from three leading EU poultry companies
Germanwatch (2020)

IMPACT OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) ON HUMAN HEALTH IN EUROPE

AMR is responsible for an estimated
33,000 deaths per year
in the EU/EEA
OECD (2019)

If no action is taken, AMR could cause
390,000 deaths per year
in Europe by 2050
AMR Review (2014)

Nearly 40% of the health burden of AMR
in the EU/EEA is caused by infections with bacteria resistant to last-line antibiotics
ECDC (2018)

USE OF COLISTIN IN FOOD PRODUCTION IN EUROPE

Colistin is a polymyxin, a class of medication which accounted for 3.3% of total antimicrobial sales for food-producing animals in 2018
ECDC, EFSA, EMA (2021)

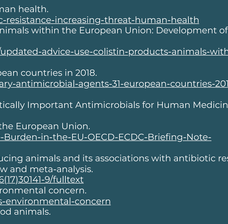
Main uses of colistin in animal farming in the EU/EEA

Pigs
Group treatment and prevention of diarrhoea caused by E. Coli and Salmonella spp.

Piglets and veal calves
First choice treatment for neonatal diarrhoea caused by E. Coli

Poultry
Treatment of mild colibacillosis
EMA (2016)

Highest polymyxin consumption in food-producing animals in the EU/EEA in 2017
ECDC, EFSA, EMA (2021)



The consumption of colistin was much higher in food-producing animals than in humans in the EU in 2017
ECDC, EFSA, EMA (2021)

USE OF COLISTIN IN HUMAN HEALTH

Colistin is on the WHO's List of Critically Important Antimicrobials for human medicine - when these medicines are no longer effective, some infections may become impossible to treat
WHO (2018)

Colistin is used in humans as a last-resort antibiotic to treat multidrug-resistant infections
ECDC, EFSA, EMA (2021)

Highest consumption of polymyxins in humans in the EU/EEA in 2017
ECDC, EFSA, EMA (2021)

HELP #SAFEGUARDCOLISTIN FOR HUMAN USE

The new EU Veterinary Medical Products Regulation will shortly introduce new rules on veterinary medicinal products to better tackle AMR. Within this framework, the European Commission will develop a list of antimicrobials to be banned in food production. This ban will also apply to imported food, establishing an important international standard.

It is crucial that colistin is on this list in order to safeguard this vital medicine in the fight against AMR.

Join other European healthcare leaders to stop the spread of AMR and sign the petition calling on the European Commission to ban colistin in EU food production and meat imports.

SIGN THE PETITION AT noharm-europe.org/safeguard-colistin

References

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