

Understanding Antimicrobial Resistance

What You Need to Know After Your Surgery

What is Antimicrobial Resistance?

Antibiotics are powerful medicines that fight infections caused by bacteria. However, some bacteria can become resistant to antibiotics, meaning these medicines no longer work effectively. This happens when antibiotics are overused or misused, allowing resistant bacteria to survive and spread.

Why Does It Matter?

Antimicrobial resistance is a serious public health threat. Without effective antibiotics, common infections become harder to treat, leading to longer hospital stays, higher healthcare costs, and increased risk of severe illness and death.

You can help prevent antimicrobial resistance!

If You Receive Antibiotics:

- Ask your doctor if you truly need antibiotics
- If yes, follow the dosage and timing as prescribed
- Never save antibiotics for later use
- Never share antibiotics with others

To Reduce Infection Risk:

- Keep your surgical wound clean and dry
- Watch for signs of infection (redness, warmth, drainage, fever)
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Follow all post-operative care instructions
- Contact your doctor if you have concerns

Questions? Here Are Trusted Resources:

CDC - Antimicrobial Resistance: www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use

CDC - Get Smart Campaign: www.cdc.gov/getsmart

FDA - Antibiotic Resistance: www.fda.gov/drugs/special-features/antibiotic-resistance

WHO - Antimicrobial Stewardship: www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antimicrobial-resistance

<https://www.angelsquadproject.com/>