COVID-19 & ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE: DUAL HEALTH THREATS

COVID-19 is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It primarily affects the respiratory system and can lead to severe complications, requiring hospitalization. There is currently no known cure.

Antimicrobial Resistance occurs when microbes (bacteria, fungi, and viruses) develop ways to survive against, or resist, medicines called antimicrobials that are designed to treat infections.

HOW CAN WE FIGHT COVID-19 & AMR?

Impact on Global Health:
- 1.27 million annually
- 3.5 million in 2021
- 5 million in 2020

COVID-19 Fatalities

AMR Fatalities

Over Age 65
- Chronic health conditions
- Compromised immune systems
- Transplant recipients

Those most vulnerable to COVID-19 are also most vulnerable to drug-resistant infections.

Antibiotic therapy for COVID-19 patients was as high as in some hospitals.

Only 8% of COVID-19 patients were found to have bacterial or fungal co-infections.

HOW DOES COVID-19 CONTRIBUTE TO AMR?

WITH VACCINES:
1. Follow your doctor’s instructions
2. Share information about the vaccine with others
3. Take medication prescribed by your doctor
4. Follow hygiene practices

WITH DIAGNOSTICS:
1. Reduce unnecessary antibiotic use with shorter turnaround times for COVID-19 tests
2. Differentiate between viral and bacterial infections to determine the best course of treatment
3. Make informed decisions about when antibiotic therapy can be safely discontinued

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE:
72% of COVID-19 patients were found to have bacterial or fungal co-infections.

Only 8% of COVID-19 patients were found to have bacterial or fungal co-infections.

Antibiotic therapy for COVID-19 patients was as high as in some hospitals.

REFERENCES:

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