

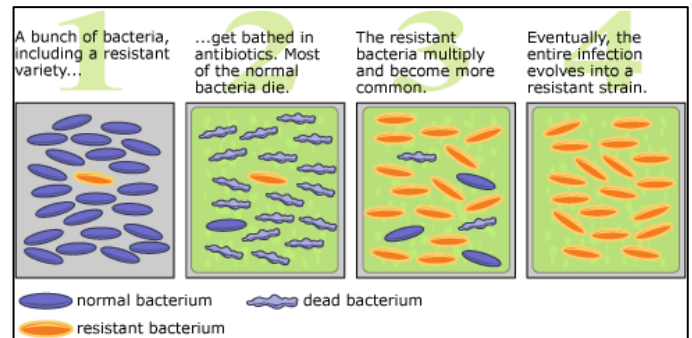
get a liver? Should an obese person get a heart? How do we decide who deserves the organs?

Diseases

A pathogen is an organism that causes infectious diseases. There are various ways pathogens can be spread:

- Water, like cholera.
- Food, like salmonella.
- Direct or indirect contact, like athlete's foot.
- Bodily fluids, like HIV.
- Air, like influenza.
- Animals:

Houseflies spread dysentery pathogens to food with their feet. Anopheles mosquitoes spread malaria. They feed on someone, suck up the protozoan for malaria, and then bite someone else and pass it on.



Defences

Antibiotics: they kill bacteria by destroying the cell wall. However, we mustn't misuse or overuse them, as it can cause them to be resistant. That's how MRSA happened basically.

Antifungals: unsurprisingly, kill fungi.

Antibacterials: anything that interferes with the growth of bacteria, but most commonly refers to cleaners.

Antiseptics: kill pathogens outside the body. Used to swab wounds, clean skin, clean surfaces etc. Unfortunately, we can't ingest them.

Bodily defences: physical

- Skin is one, obviously.
- Mucus in lungs traps bacteria and tiny hairs called cilia sweep it out
- Thorns on plants

Bodily defences: chemical

- Lysozyme in tears
- Hydrochloric acid in stomach
- Sebum on skin
- Platelets clot over wounds
- Antibodies

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