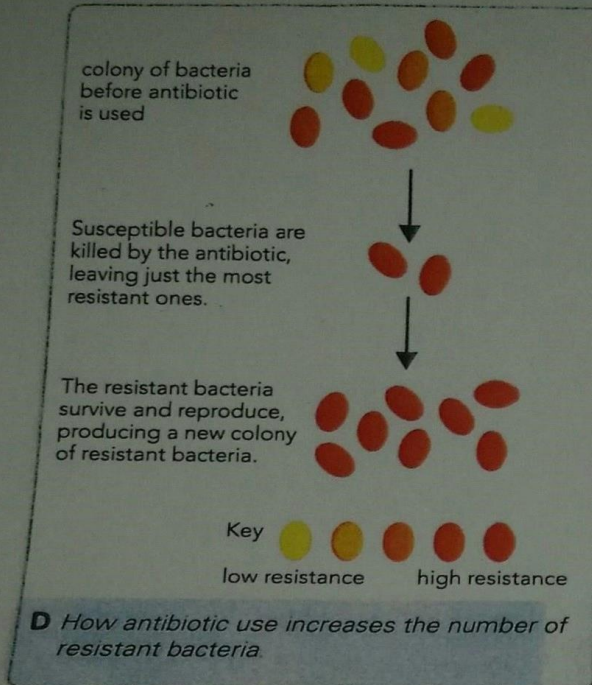


Antibiotics and Resistance

Resistance



Bacteria can **mutate** and the mutations can cause them to be naturally **more resistant** to an antibiotic.

This means that when you treat an infection with an antibiotic the **less resistant** bacteria are **killed first** and the patient starts to feel **better**.

However, the **more resistant** bacteria are still there and can cause infection again if the patient **stops** taking the antibiotics.

If these more resistant bacteria **reproduce** and **spread** to other people, they could cause an infection that **cannot** be treated with **that antibiotic**. This also applies to the original patient.

So using antibiotics encourages bacterial resistance to become more common. MRSA is a bacterium that causes wound infections and is resistant to many antibiotics.

Overusing antibiotics also **increases** the resistance of other strains of **different bacteria** because **antibiotics kill many bacteria**, not just those it is being used against. When the antibiotic treatment **stops** the **resistant bacteria** of these different bacteria will be left behind.

Q1. Give two **misuses** of antibiotics that have increased the rate of development of resistant strains of bacteria.

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Q2. Why should you always finish a course of antibiotics, even if you are feeling better after taking them for a few days?

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