

BBC Learning English

Media English 媒体英语

Biggest threat to modern medicine claim

现代医学面临的巨大威胁



請注意：中文文字内容只提供簡體版

全球医学专家警告说未受抗生素影响的细菌对现代医学构成了严重威胁。他们在《柳叶刀》（*The Lancet*）杂志上发表的一篇文章中呼吁世界各地的人们一同对抗此威胁。以下是 *Danny Aeberhard* 给 *BBC* 发来的报道：

The experts warn we're at the dawn of a **post-antibiotic** era. Immediate global action is needed, they say, if **dire consequences** are to be avoided within just a few years.

This would involve cutting down on the unnecessary **prescription** of antibiotics and providing **incentives** to pharmaceutical companies to develop new drugs. Research would be needed into how antibiotics in farming affect the growth of **drug-resistant strains** of bacteria.

The experts warn that without **effective** antibiotics, **treatments** ranging from minor surgery to current cancer chemotherapy **regimes** could become impossible and that deaths from infections in developed countries might return to levels last seen in the early 20th century.

They also say healthcare costs would probably **spiral**, as we'd be forced **to resort to** newer, more expensive drugs and stay in hospital for longer when recovering from illness.

Questions

1. True or false? *Health experts want doctors to stop giving out unnecessary prescriptions.*
2. What should pharmaceutical companies be given to develop new drugs?
3. In relation to this story, what happened in the early 20th century that we might see again?
4. Why might healthcare costs increase if no action is taken?

Vocabulary and definitions

post-antibiotic era	后抗生素时代
dire consequences	可怕的后果
prescription	处方, 药方
incentives	奖励措施, 奖励机制
drug-resistant strains	耐药性菌株
effective	有效的
treatments	治疗
regimes	方法
spiral	急剧增长
to resort to	诉诸于, 求助于

Answers to the questions:

1. True or false? *Health experts want doctors to stop giving out unnecessary prescriptions.*

Answer: True. Experts want them to cut down on the unnecessary prescription of antibiotics.

2. What should pharmaceutical companies be given to develop new drugs?

Answer: Incentives.

3. In relation to this story, what happened in the early 20th century that we might see again?

Answer: The level of deaths from infections in developed countries.

4. Why might healthcare costs increase if no action is taken?

Answer: People would have to use more expensive drugs and stay in hospital for longer when recovering from illness.