

## **Editorial**

### **ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

A fast emerging global threat to the health care system is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). AMR is the development of resistant strains of bacteria, viruses and fungi over time, due to which the common infections are difficult to treat, leading to spread of diseases, their increased intensity and deaths. The use of antimicrobials since their invention in the previous century have saved countless human lives, as well as increased the average lifespan of humans by 23 years. However, along with their benefits, the microbes have developed resistant strains because of the resistance genes spreading rapidly among microbes. Injudicious and overuse of antimicrobials enhance the spread of resistance genes among the microbial communities and lead to situations when different bacterial, viral, fungal or parasitic infections stop responding to the antimicrobials that are being prescribed. It is expected by the World Health Organization that till year 2050, AMR will be responsible for around 10 million deaths each year.

According to different data, about 10% of antibiotic prescription for humans are done by dentists. This is further noted that the prescription of antibiotics is correct and adequate by about 12% dentists only. This scenario is further worsened by the Covid-19 outbreak as a surge is being witnessed in antibiotic prescription by the dentists.

Human beings are expected to return to the pre-antibiotic era due to Antimicrobial Resistance, in which the medical specialists will find it difficult to effectively treat microbial diseases caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites. Elaborate guidelines should be established by health policy makers and implemented so as to reduce the frequency of complications caused by unnecessary prescription of antibiotics. In this context, the dentists are supposed to play a role in managing the threat of antimicrobial resistance that the world is facing by minimizing the prescription of antimicrobials.

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