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Globalization of antimicrobial resistance: Challenges and response in developing world

Lul Raka

University of Prishtina, Kosovo

Infectious diseases are a global concern and the second commonest cause of death worldwide. Of the annual 12 million deaths, 95% occur in the developing countries, where prevention and control policies are either non-existent, poorly adapted or insufficiently funded by governments. Antimicrobial resistance is one of the major challenges of public health in developing countries with impact on increasing morbidity and mortality, the period of infectiousness, adverse reactions, length of hospital stay and costs. Overuse, misuse and non use of antimicrobials are identified as key factors in the emergence of antimicrobial resistance. Other factors contributing to resistance are use of antimicrobials in the veterinary area, globalization and lack of antibiotic stewardship programs. Poverty, poor sanitation, malnutrition, inadequate access to antimicrobials and health care systems, war and economic disturbances all significantly multiply the burden of antimicrobial resistance issue. In developing countries antimicrobials are frequently available over the counter in pharmacies. The quality and potency of antibiotics are often suspected, with unregulated import, registration and distribution. The basic requirement for controlling antimicrobial resistance in developing countries are multifaceted strategies, which include: increase awareness of the antibiotic resistance problem, surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and usage, prudent antimicrobial use in community and hospitals, infection control measures, ongoing education, research and inter sectorial coordination. The most important key to successful implementation of interventions in these countries is a strong governmental commitment and support. Focusing on containment of antimicrobial resistance, countries with limited resources can improve the quality of healthcare in the future.

Biography

Lul Raka, MD-PhD is Professor of Medical Microbiology at the University of Prishtina, Kosovo. He also works as Medical microbiologist at the National Institute of Public Health of Kosova. Currently he is Director of the National Committee for health care-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance at the Ministry of Health of Kosova Government. He has published more than 20 papers in reputed journals in the field of infection control and antimicrobial resistance.