

# antibiotic resistance

Antibiotic resistant bacteria, known as “superbugs”, cost the lives of nearly 90 people every day in the EU/EEA. As antibiotics become increasingly ineffective due to the development and spread of resistant infections, even minor surgeries and routine operations can become life threatening high-risk procedures. Reducing the unnecessary use of antibiotics helps to stop the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

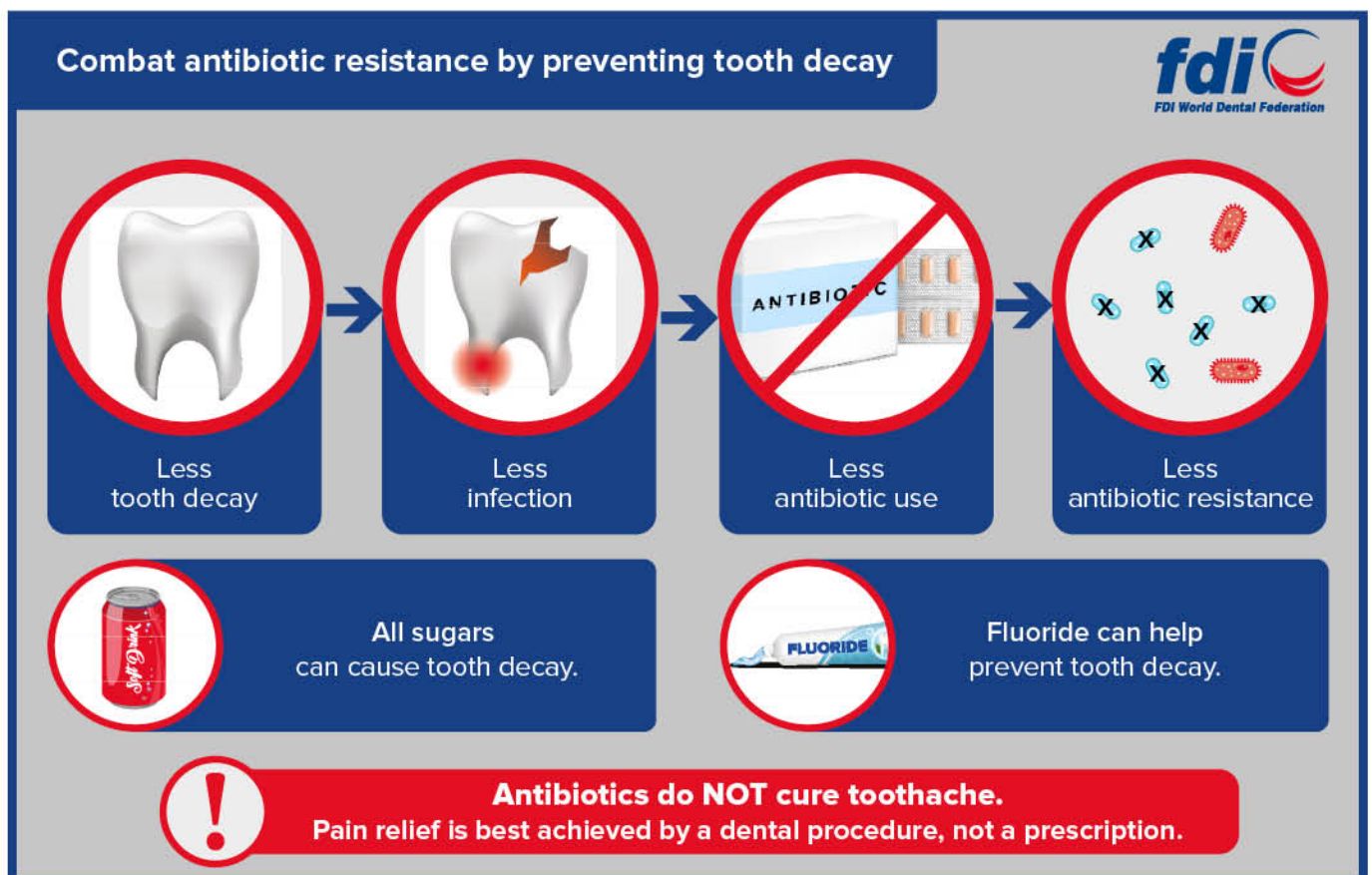
Unless something changes, you and your family and friends could be affected by infections that don't respond to antibiotics.

**IMMEDIATE ACTION  
IS NEEDED.  
HOW DOES THIS INVOLVE  
YOU AS A DENTIST?**

The dental profession is responsible for 10% of antibiotic prescriptions. Research shows that up to 80% of these prescriptions were inappropriate.

Practising effective antibiotic stewardship is essential. Dentists should be familiar with national prescribing guidelines\* and only prescribe outside them with justification.

## ANTIBIOTICS DON'T CURE TOOTHACHE. DENTAL TREATMENT DOES.



\*Where local guidelines are not available, refer to:

<https://www.fdiworlddental.org/resource/fdi-white-paper-essential-role-dental-team-reducing-antibiotic-resistance>

**A dental infection is best treated by a dental procedure. Antibiotics are indicated only if a dentogenic infection is accompanied by fever or malaise or systemic signs such as swelling, lymphadenopathy, trismus. A patient with signs of sepsis should be referred immediately for emergency hospital care.**

### **If you decide to prescribe antibiotics :**

- indications should be evidence based
- use the most narrow spectrum antibiotic for the shortest period
- use the correct dosage
- use only one antibiotic whenever possible
- educate your patients to take antibiotics exactly as prescribed
- raise awareness of the risks of antibiotics, the development and spread of resistant infection

## **Preventing infection**

**Practice effective infection prevention and control  
(hand-hygiene, sterilisation of equipment)**

**Help your patients to prevent tooth decay and gum disease**

**Produced by: CED/ERO Joint Workforce on AMR**

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