

Drug Resistance

Deadlier than Cancer by 2050: Study

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Infections resistant to medicines will kill more people per year than cancer by 2050, and cost the world \$100 trillion annually, according to a U.K. government-backed report led by Jim O'Neill, the well-known former Goldman Sachs economist.

The wide-ranging study, called the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance, was commissioned by the U.K. government earlier this year amid growing concerns about drug-resistant “superbugs”, including new strains of E. coli, malaria and tuberculosis.



Its forecasts, based on research by RAND Europe and KPMG, suggest that drug resistance, which is estimated to have caused around 700,000 deaths globally this year, will cause 10 million by 2050 if further action is not taken.

Antibiotic use is rising around the world, while at the same time the number of new antibiotics is falling. If these medicines become ineffectual, there could be a huge economic ramifications, as people of working age are affected, and once treatable diseases become incurable again.

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