Superbugs that medicine can't kill

3rd May, 2014

There are many horror movies about superbugs that spread around the world and kill millions of people. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said the spread of deadly superbugs is now a reality. Many of the medicines that we have used for decades to keep away disease no longer work. Bugs have developed and have become resistant to antibiotics and other drugs. The WHO said this is a major threat to our health. The organization said nobody on Earth is safe. The superbugs can kill healthy people in rich countries as well as weaker people in poorer nations. The WHO looked at data from 114 countries. It found that some antibiotics that worked 30 years ago do not work now for about half the people who take them.

The WHO's assistant director-general for health security Keiji Fukuda describes a scary future. He said: "The world is headed for a post-antibiotic era, in which common infections and minor injuries which have been treatable for decades can once again kill." This means that soon there will be no way to stop people from once again dying from diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and influenza. Dr Fukuda warned this was a global trend. He said: "This is not a regional phenomena. This is not a phenomena occurring in just poor countries or developing countries, or in rich countries or developed countries. This is something which is occurring in all countries in the world."

Sources: *WHO / Fox News / MedScape*

Writing

Describe and compare three ways to could protect us from superbugs.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

horror movies / deadly / medicines / decades / resistant / health / data / half / security / scary / future / common infections / minor injuries / malaria / regional / developed

True / False

a) There is a new horror movie about superbugs. T / F

b) Many of our usual medicines are no longer effective against diseases. T / F

c) The WHO said there is a serious danger to the health of all of us. T / F

d) The WHO analysed data from 140 countries. T / F

e) A WHO spokesman talked about a scary future. T / F

f) The man said many diseases now under control would be killers again. T / F

g) The man said it was a regional and not a global problem. T / F

h) Many countries will not be affected by the superbugs. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	movies	a.	unaffected by
2	spread	b.	frightening
3.	reality	c.	prevent
4.	resistant to	d.	fact
5.	data	e.	worldwide
6.	scary	f.	statistics
7.	era	g.	films
8.	stop	h.	happening
9.	global	i.	time
10.	occurring	j.	growth

Discussion – Student A

a) What would life be like if antibiotics no longer worked?

b) Have you ever been ill because of an infection or disease?

c) Do you think the world will panic if many diseases spread?

d) How healthy are you?

e) If there are superbugs everywhere, would you stay indoors?

f) Should people now start washing their hands more often and wearing face masks?

g) Will this happen or is it just another story?

h) What questions would you like to ask Dr Keiji Fukuda?

Phrase Match

1.	spread	a.	to antibiotics
2	keep	b.	nations
3.	become resistant	c.	like malaria
4.	people in poorer	d.	who take them
5.	about half the people	e.	injuries
6.	The world is headed for a post-	f.	away disease
7.	minor	g.	trend
8.	diseases	h.	around the world
9.	this was a global	i.	just poor countries
10.	This is not a phenomena occurring in	j.	antibiotic era

Discussion – Student B

a) Do you like horror movies about viruses that spread around the world?

b) What do you think of what the WHO said?

c) Do you think we are all in great danger?

d) What would you do differently if superbugs were everywhere?

e) Why haven't scientists made new medicines for the superbugs?

f) Are you worried about this?

g) What should governments do about this?

h) What superbugs and viruses do you know about?

Spelling

1. <u>rrhoor</u> movies

2. <u>arsdep</u> around the world

3. now a <u>itaryel</u>

4. become <u>essanttri</u> to antibiotics

5. a major <u>ttrhae</u> to our health

6. people in <u>proroe</u> nations

7. The WHO's <u>asistanst</u> director-general

8. common <u>ofcnentisi</u>

9. minor <u>ejiinsur</u>

10. This is not a <u>roainlge</u> phenomena

11. <u>vgnoeipled</u> countries

12. something which is <u>gcrurncoi</u> in all countries

Role Play

Role A – The common cold
You think a cure for the common cold is the most important cure to find. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't as important with their problems. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these to be cured (and why): stress, being overweight or tiredness.

Role B – Stress
You think a cure for stress is the most important cure to find. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't as important with their problems. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these to be cured (and why): the common cold, being overweight or tiredness.

Role C – Being overweight
You think a cure for being overweight is the most important cure to find. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't as important with their problems. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these to be cured (and why): stress, the common cold or tiredness.

Role D – Tiredness
You think a cure for tiredness is the most important cure to find. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't as important with their problems. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these to be cured (and why): stress, being overweight or the common cold.

Speaking – Health

Rank these with your partner. Put the one you'd most like a cure for at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- the common cold
- stress
- being overweight
- poor eyesight
- headaches
- tiredness
- itchiness
- other _____

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. j	3. d	4. a	5. f
6. b	7. i	8. c	9. e	10. h

Answers – True False

a F	b T	c T	d F	e T	f T	g F	h F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.