

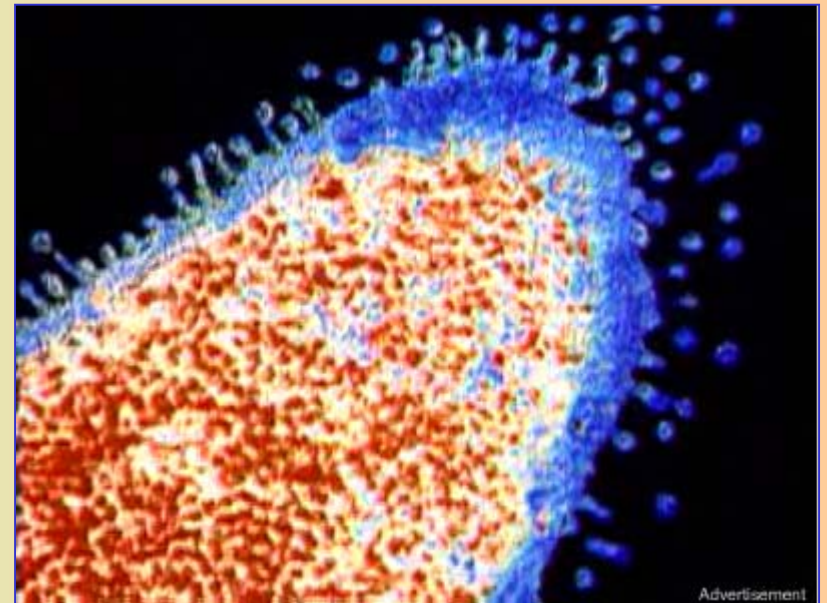
# Antibiotics



## Antibiotics

Since the 1940s antibiotics such as penicillin and tetracyclin) have proved that they are effective in killing bacteria

Antibiotics work by attacking the walls of bacteria, causing the bacteria to explode.



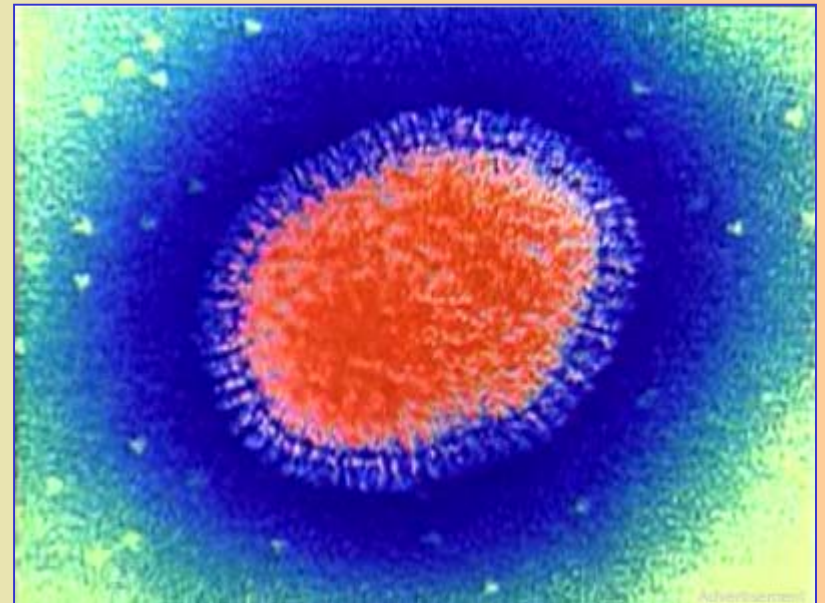
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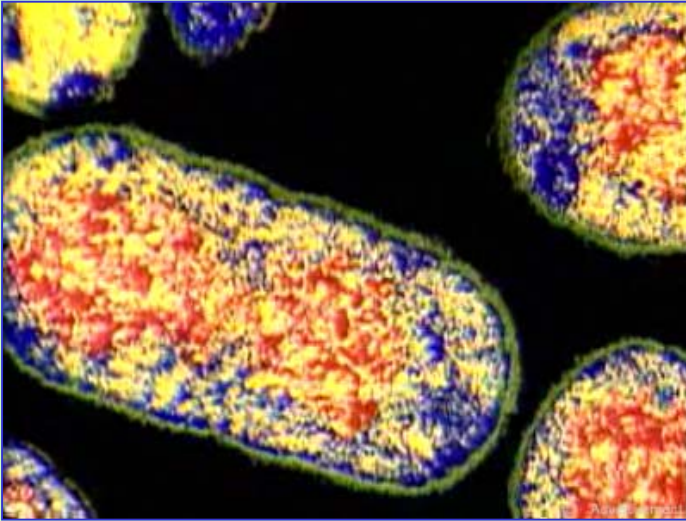
Before antibiotics bacterial infections like pneumonia were among the major causes of death.

Today, such diseases are no longer such a threat.

But antibiotics work on bacteria; they have no effect on viruses, such as those that cause the flu or the common cold.



# Antibiotics

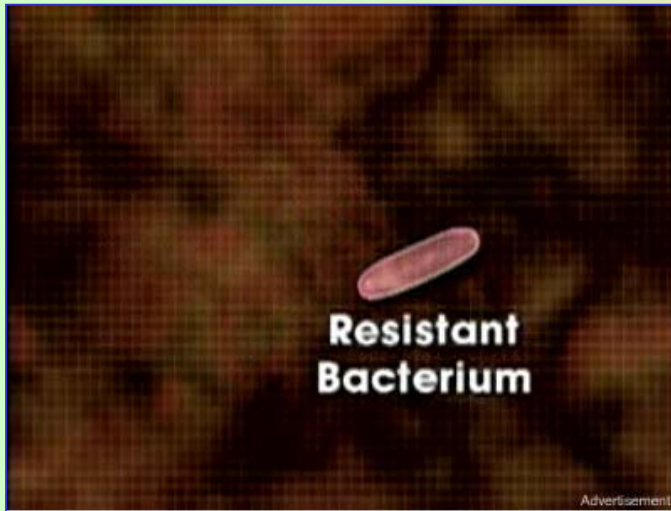


Also, there are bacteria that have developed resistance to many kinds of antibiotics

When an antibiotic is used against bacteria that have infected the body they may be one or several bacteria that are slightly different and are not affected by the drug.



# Antibiotics



Most of the bacteria die but the resistant bacteria survives and can rapidly reproduce.

All the bacteria that descend from this original resistant bacterium will also be resistant to the antibiotic.

For this reason, penicillin and other early kind of antibiotics are no longer effective against many kinds of bacteria.

Indeed, scientist are constantly struggling to develop new antibiotics as bacteria become resistant to ones that already exist.

Video:

<http://videos.howstuffworks.com/hsw/6076-disease-defense-antibiotics-video.htm>

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