



World Cancer Day – understanding how antibiotic resistance threatens cancer treatment

**On World Cancer Day:
ReAct highlights why effective antibiotics are essential for modern cancer care**

Patients with cancer rely on effective antibiotics as they undergo cancer treatment. Infections are one of the most common complications cancer patients experience, and it is not uncommon that multiple courses of antibiotics are needed while cancer treatment is ongoing. Antibiotics are also used preventively to avoid infections after surgeries and when patients' immune systems are weak; for example when undergoing chemotherapy. As such, effective antibiotics are a cornerstone of modern cancer care.

Antibiotic-resistant infections affect cancer patients across the world

Bacteria becoming resistant to antibiotics is therefore bad news for cancer treatment. Although the exact magnitude of the problem is difficult to estimate, studies from different parts of the world have found a relatively high occurrence of antibiotic-resistant infections in patients with cancer. Cancer communities around the world are therefore increasingly becoming important actors in calling for urgent global action on antibiotic resistance.

Dr. Honar Cherif, Ass. Professor and Head of the Department of Hematology at Uppsala University Hospital, Sweden, says:

“Patients treated for cancer are at high risk for serious infections that increase suffering and delay essential cancer treatment. Effective antibiotic treatment is therefore lifesaving. Antibiotic resistance threatens modern cancer care and may have devastating consequences for already vulnerable patients.”

Report from UICC shows affordability is seen as a barrier to access

UICC's report *International Public Opinion Survey on Cancer* launched today finds that 33% of respondents think that making cancer treatment and services more affordable is the most important action governments should take on cancer. Affordable access to effective antibiotics is similarly crucial.

Anna Zorzet, Director ReAct Europe, Uppsala University, says:

“Effective antibiotics are a cornerstone of modern healthcare and policy makers should require that affordable and sustainable access to both new and old antibiotics for all in need is the guiding principle in efforts to address antibiotic resistance.”

Read article: [World Cancer Day: Cancer patients rely on effective antibiotics](#)

See short video: [3 reasons why cancer patients rely on antibiotics](#)

To learn more about antibiotic resistance and how it affects cancer patients, please contact:

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