

Your M.D. Offers

Health Facts

By THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASS'N

"Antibiotic" is one six-bit scientific word which is in the vocabulary of nearly every modern American. Many laymen aren't clear, however, on what an antibiotic is, and the general tendency is to regard them as a sure cure for falling arches, falling hair and everything in between them geographically.

The antibiotics are "wonder drugs" sure enough; a whole new era began in medicine and human health with the discovery of penicillin in 1943. But they are to be used carefully and sensibly if man is to receive maximum benefit from the wonders of them.

All of the more recently developed antibiotics are derived from a sort of dew which occurs on mold growths of various kinds. They are used to combat diseases caused by bacteria and rarely by viruses. In general, they are effective against many types of bacteria and a few types of viruses.

Penicillin was the first antibiotic and still is the most widely used. It hits at a wide range of different bacteria, but it is not effective against viruses. The common cold is thought to be caused by a virus or family of viruses.

Penicillin won't cure a cold, although it may prevent bacterial complications. In addition there is a large group of bacteria which can infect the intestinal tract against which penicillin is not effective.

Streptomycin is probably the second most common antibiotic. It is effective against a different range of bacteria than penicillin. Moreover, it is very helpful, although not curative, in the treatment of tuberculosis. It can give harmful side effects of ringing in the ears, temporary deafness and sometimes a permanent dizziness.

Then there are the newer antibiotics—chloromycetin, terramycin, aureomycin, erythromycin, magnimycin and neomycin. Quite probably there are many more mycins on the way.

This whole group tends to cover somewhat the same range of organisms but generally is more effective against intestinal bacteria. Most of them will hit things penicillin won't. Some physicians and researchers feel some of the drugs of this last group may be effective against certain virus diseases, particularly virus pneumonia.

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This new one-coat semi-gloss enamel leaves a beautiful rich satin finish that's ideal for woodwork and walls. It's brilliant, gleaming white and washes and is very easy to wash and keep clean. White and 18 colors. \$1.97 QT.

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