Gonorrhea Could Soon Become Untreatable
Just one antibiotic treatment option remains, and few new drugs are in development

Of the 1.6 million new gonorrhea infections in the U.S. each year, nearly half are estimated to be drug-resistant.

Of the dozens of antibiotics currently in clinical development, only four have the potential to treat drug-resistant gonorrhea—and just two of them are the novel types of drugs needed to overcome resistance.

Novel classes of drugs are necessary to overcome resistance because they fight bacteria differently than antibiotics already on the market. What’s more, only 1 in 5 such drugs in development generally make it to market.

This infographic was updated in February 2022 to reflect the latest data.


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