



## **INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Department of Health Research – Ministry Health & Family Welfare  
Government of India

**Media report (17 November to 22 November)**

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November 18, 2018/The Asian Age

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November 19, 2018/Hindustan Times

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November 21, 2018/The Indian Express

### **Study links drug-resistant infections with higher mortality rates**

November 18,2018/The Asian Age

In a recent study, researchers measured the burden of antibiotic resistance in low- or middle-income countries, and reported that in-hospital mortality is significantly higher among patients infected with multi-drug resistant (MDR) or extensively drug-resistant (XDR) pathogens. Researchers at the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy analysed antimicrobial susceptibility testing results and mortality outcomes for over 4,000 patients who visited one of ten tertiary or quaternary referral hospitals across India in 2015. Pathogens were classified as MDR or XDR based on drug susceptibility profiles. Mortality data was restricted to in-hospital deaths. The findings appear in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. Additional demographic and clinical data including age, sex, place of infection acquisition, and location in the hospital (i.e., intensive care unit [ICU] or non-intensive care unit) were also collected. The overall mortality rate among all study participants was 13.1 percent, with mortality as high as 29.0 percent among patients infected with *A. baumannii*. Patients who died were more likely to have been older and admitted to the ICU at the time of testing. Researchers also found that among MDR infections, those caused by Gram-negative bacteria were associated with higher mortality rates compared to those caused by Gram-positive bacteria, with rates of 17.7 percent and 10.8 percent, respectively.

### **Bullying, violence at work ups heart disease risk: Study**

November 19,2018/Hindustan Times

People who frequently experience violence or bullying at work may be at higher risk of heart attacks and stroke, a study has found. The researchers looked at data from 79,201 working men and women in Denmark and Sweden, aged 18 to 65, with no history of cardiovascular disease (CVD), who were participants in three studies that started between 1995 and 2011. Although the study does not show that workplace bullying or violence directly cause cardiovascular problems, researchers said that their results are robust and have important implications for employers and national governments. “If there is a causal link between bullying or violence at work and cardiovascular disease, then the removal of workplace bullying would mean we could avoid five per cent of all cardiovascular cases, and the eradication of violence at work would avoid more than three per cent of all cases,” said Tianwei Xu, a PhD student at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. When the participants joined the studies, the participants were asked about bullying and violence in the workplace and how frequently they experienced each of them.

### **Dengue: When should you go for the NS1 test?**

November 20, 2018/the Times of India

Dengue, without a doubt, is one of the most dangerous diseases to battle. Every year, dengue cases rise and turn into an epidemic and India is one of the most affected countries bitten by the dengue bug. Just this year, over 800 cases have been reported ever since the viral infection spread, the main culprit being the *Aedes* mosquito which breeds around in stagnant water. With so many cases on

the rise and no cure in reach, the outbreak of dengue fever is also showing up earlier than expected and stays around for longer. The symptoms of dengue are just as similar to that of flu like infection but can be very lethal, even leading to hospitalisation. Common symptoms include high-grade fever, body ache, a mild skin rash, pain behind the eyes, loss of appetite, vomiting and nausea. Thus, it can be hard to differentiate between high-grade fever and flu and dengue symptoms in many cases. If symptoms persist for over 2 weeks, a test can help detect the spread of dengue but it is very important that these tests are done in time, which can help in providing accurate treatment and stop cases from turning lethal. Hence, in such a scenario, conducting a NS1 test is very essential and helpful.

### **Sharp decline in malaria in India as cases rise globally: WHO report**

November 20, 2018/Hindustan Times

India reported almost 3 million fewer malaria cases in 2017, a 24% decrease over the previous year, while cases increased worldwide to 219 million from 217 million, after registering a steady decline since 2010, according to the World Malaria Report 2018. India's reduction, the sharpest within a year, now means the country accounts for 4% of the world's total malaria cases, and is no longer among the world's top three countries in terms of number of cases (around 8.7 million in 2017). Around 70% of the world's malaria cases are found in India and 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. "There were 3.5 million more malaria cases reported in these 10 African countries in 2017 compared to the previous year, while India showed progress in reducing its disease burden," said the report.

In 2017, India launched its five-year National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination that shifted focus from malaria "control" to "elimination" and provided a road-map with targets to end malaria in 571 districts out of India's 678 districts by 2022. What seems to have worked for India is the scaling up a diagnostic testing, treatment and surveillance and ensuring an uninterrupted drug and diagnostics supply chain, training community workers to test all fever cases and provide medicines, and distributing medicated bed-nets for prevention, under its 'test-treat-track' in the endemic north-eastern states and Odisha.

### **Deadly air pollution shortens life span by nearly 2 years**

November 20, 2018/Hindustan Times

Air pollution, caused largely by burning fossil fuels, is cutting global life expectancy by an average of 1.8 years per person, making it the world's top killer, researchers said on Monday. The tiny particles ingested from polluted air shorten life more than first-hand cigarette smoke, which can reduce it by 1.6 years, and are more dangerous than other public health threats such as war and HIV/AIDS, they said. The University of Chicago's Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) shows people in parts of India, the world's second-largest country by population, could live 11 years less due to high levels of air pollution. Life expectancy averages slightly below 69 in the South Asian nation of 1.3 billion, according to the World Bank. The researchers launched a website that tells users how many years of life air pollution could cost them according to which region of a country they live in. The index seeks to transform hard-to-comprehend data into "perhaps the most important metric that exists - life", Michael Greenstone, director of the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), said in a statement.

## **Silicone implants can increase a woman's risk of arthritis, stillbirth and skin cancer, says study**



November 21, 2018/The Indian Express

Silicone breast implants are fast gaining popularity among women all over the world. But turns out, it comes at a price. Researchers have found that women who underwent silicone breast implants had four times greater risk of developing skin cancer and 4.5 fold increased risk of having a stillbirth. As compared to women with saline implants, the ones with silicone implants were found to be at a double risk of developing surgical complications, particularly scarring around the implant. Advertising The researchers from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston examined nearly 100,000 people to conclude the study. Out of which, approximately 80,000 people who participated in the study had silicone implants and the rest received implants filled with a saline solution, during the course of research. The study found that women with silicone implants had six times higher risk of arthritis, 45 times higher risk of stillbirth and 40 times higher risk of skin cancer than people without silicone implants. Talking about the research, Dr Mark Clemens, an associate professor in the department of plastic surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center said, "We are reporting an analysis of the largest prospective study to date on silicone breast implant safety.

## **Probiotics no help to kids with stomach flu: Study**

November 22, 2018/The Asian Age

Probiotics are a multibillion dollar international industry, but new research Wednesday showed they don't help children recover from stomach flu any better than a placebo. The results of two randomized clinical trials -- which came to the same conclusions -- were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"Probiotics had no effect on the children," said co-author Phillip Tarr, a professor of pediatrics at Washington University in St. Louis, adding that the findings were "not ambiguous."

"Parents are better off saving their money and using it to buy more fresh fruits and vegetables for their children." Probiotics are surging in popularity, with the global market predicted to expand from \$37 billion in 2015 to \$64 billion by 2023, according to the report. Five of 12 leading medical groups worldwide currently endorse their use, as a way to promote gut health by restoring intestinal flora, building up so-called "good bacteria" in children's bodies.

With regards,

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