

NARRATOR: Bacteria are everywhere. They live in your skin, in your gut, and can even be found trapped in the Antarctic ice. In fact, there can be as many as 10 billion bacterial cells in a gram of soil. Most bacteria are harmless. But some have more sinister intentions and cause infectious diseases like cholera, syphilis, anthrax, tuberculosis, leprosy, and bubonic plague. In fact, in the past, the slightest graze could have led to death.

This is why antibiotics are so important. However, when antibiotics are overused or used incorrectly, bacteria evolve strategies to resist them. And those that learn to resist multiple antibiotics are called superbugs. And they're difficult to treat. But don't panic. There are a number of different ways of fighting antibiotic resistance including preventing the transmission of diseases by improving hygiene, reducing over-prescription, and diagnosing infections more quickly. So antibiotics will be safe for the future.