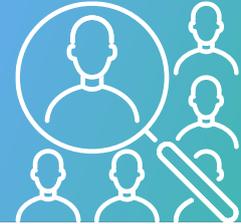


DARWIN EU® study

Use of antibiotics from the WHO Watch list, including azithromycin



Why is this study needed?

The antibiotic azithromycin has been used for decades to treat various infections in children and adults. It is listed by the WHO as an essential medicine. The medicine is also classified in the [WHO's Watch category](#) due to its higher risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Data show that resistance against this antibiotic has increased in recent years.



How were the results used?

The results show a broad use of azithromycin across Europe, both in adults and children, with the medicine ranking among the top 5 to 10 in most databases. CHMP used the results when it re-evaluated the benefits and risks of azithromycin medicines. The results help track the use of antibiotics that need to be closely monitored due to potential risks.



How was this conducted?

Commissioned by EMA, the [study](#) looked at how the 141 antibiotics on the WHO's 'Watch' list, including azithromycin, are prescribed and for how long. The study used data from routine clinical care in 5 European countries.



Why do these results matter?

Based on its assessment, CHMP recommended several changes to the way azithromycin is used in the EU, including the removal of certain indications.

Using this common antibiotic more wisely will help the EU monitor antibiotic use and support global fight against AMR.

More information



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