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Is antimicrobial administration to food animals a direct threat to human health? A rapid systematic review.

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## Highlights

- We undertook a WHO-commissioned rapid systematic review of evidence to examine whether limiting the use of antimicrobials in food animals decreases antimicrobial resistance 1) in those food animals; 2) in humans
- 89 studies (3 direct, 86 indirect) provided adequate evidence that limiting antimicrobials given to animals reduces antimicrobial resistance in animals; heterogeneity precluded estimating the magnitude of effect
- 4 studies (1 direct, 3 indirect) suggested that withdrawing antimicrobials in food animals results in decreased antimicrobial resistance in humans
- The paucity of well-designed primary studies that directly answer these questions means these should be urgently commissioned to strengthen the evidence of the magnitude of the effect of stopping antimicrobial use in food animals – particularly on resistance in the bacterial flora of humans

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