GONORRHOEA: FROM LES CLAPIERS TO OUR CLINICS, A SISYPHEAN CHALLENGE

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The gonococcus has a remarkable ability to widely disseminate and develop antimicrobial resistance. Many decades of antibiotic therapy have seen the introduction of promising new antibiotics only to subsequently fail due to resistance development. The world is now faced with the prospect of extensively drug-resistant Neisseria gonorrhoea and requires a coordinated action plan to detect and treat these resistant strains. Why is the gonococcus so adept at surviving, transmitting itself and overcoming our therapies? The advantages of promiscuity are not lost on this bacterium.