

When antibiotics fail to eliminate infections by susceptible bacteria

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The persistence of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in chronic infections extends beyond the issue of antibiotic resistance. A critical, yet unresolved question is why antibiotics fail to eradicate all infecting bacteria, despite *P. aeruginosa* often being phenotypically susceptible. This highlights the need for a comprehensive understanding of persistence mechanisms, which we consider to be directly rooted in host–pathogen interactions and which are frequently overlooked. Elucidating these complex interactions has profound clinical implications.