

Angela's Battle with a Resistant Infection: A Wake-Up Call on Antibiotics



Angela, a 57-year-old woman from Trinidad and Tobago, never imagined that surgery would lead her into a battle with an antibiotic-resistant infection. In December 2023, she underwent surgery to remove tumors related to uterine cancer. As part of her recovery, she was given antibiotics and had a stent inserted to help her heal. But two days after the stent was removed, her health took a turn for the worse.

She was hit with fever, vomiting, and unbearable discomfort. At the hospital, doctors suspected a urinary tract infection (UTI) and prescribed antibiotics. But the infection didn't go away. Tests revealed that the bacteria causing her UTI were resistant to the first round of treatment. She tried another antibiotic—again, no success. It wasn't until she was put on an intravenous antibiotic, meropenem, administered three times a day for two weeks, that she finally started feeling better.

But the battle wasn't over. Even after finishing treatment, follow-up tests showed the bacteria were still there. Angela feared the worst—had the infection spread? Had her cancer returned? But because she had no symptoms, her doctor did not prescribe any additional antibiotics to prevent bacteria from becoming even more resistant.

This experience changed the way Angela thought about antibiotics. She learned that not all infections can be easily treated, and overusing antibiotics can make them less effective. Now, she's more cautious about when and why she takes them.

Angela's message to others? Be careful with antibiotics. They're powerful, but they should only be used when truly needed. Overuse and misuse can lead to dangerous resistant infections like hers. She hopes her story can help others think twice before demanding antibiotics for every illness.

By taking better care of our health—through healthy diet, vaccination, hygiene and responsible antibiotic use—we can help prevent antibiotic resistance and keep these life-saving drugs effective for when we really need them.