

'Superbug' resistant to last-resort antibiotic discovered by chance

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

The woman harboring *E. coli* resistant to colistin did not know it, and it's only luck that we do. Her doctor would have never prescribed that last-resort antibiotic for a routine urinary tract infection—it can cause serious kidney damage. But her doctor did take a urine sample, which ended up at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where researchers had recently started testing for colistin resistance. The test came back positive. Then came [scary headlines](#) about a new superbug in the US.

Superbugs are bacteria with genetic mutations that let them survive humanity's harshest weapons in germ warfare: antibiotics. The gene behind this *E. coli*'s colistin resistance is called mcr-1. It first emerged when Chinese researchers found it in samples from hospital patients and raw pork. Why pork? Colistin's serious side effects mean it's no longer used as a human antibiotic in many countries. But in China, farmers have been adding it by the pound into feed to fatten animals up.

Read full, original post: [That new superbug was found in a UTI and that's key](#)