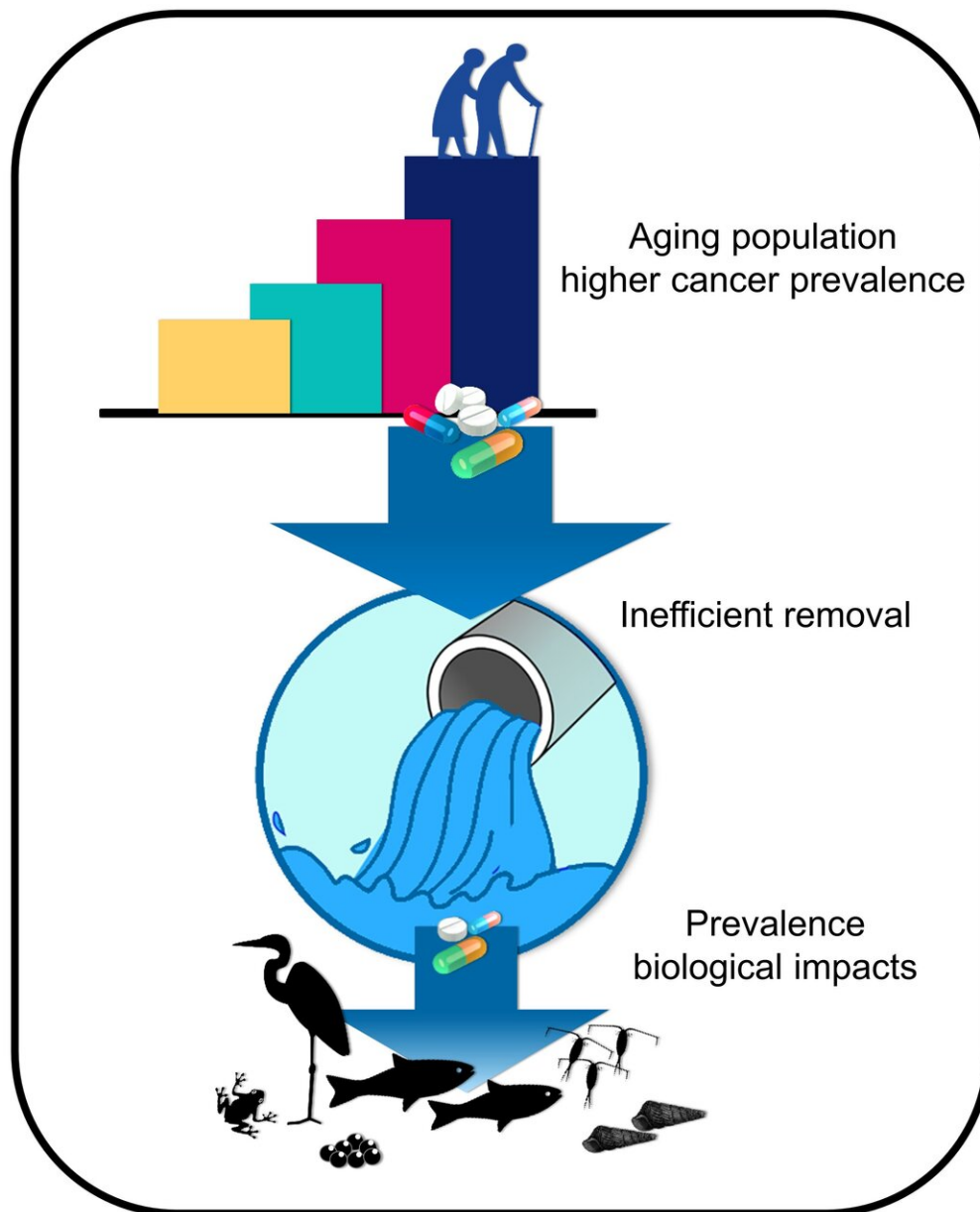


What are the environmental impacts of cancer drugs?

April 8 2020



Credit: Christopher J. Malyniuk

Chemotherapeutic drugs, also known as antineoplastic agents, that are prescribed to treat a range of cancer types, enter the aquatic environment via human excretion and wastewater treatment facilities. A review published in *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* indicates that very few studies have characterized the effects of antineoplastic agents that are released into aquatic environments.

The authors noted that with hundreds of antineoplastic agents in late-stage clinical development, it is essential to understand the toxicity of these compounds in [aquatic environments](#) in order to inform future regulations.

"The global population is aging, and cancer-fighting pharmaceuticals are being detected in water systems. We need to be proactive as a [scientific community](#) and identify potential gaps in our knowledge regarding the consequences of anti-neoplastic exposure in aquatic organisms," said corresponding author Christopher J. Martyniuk, of the University of Florida at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

More information: Alexis M. Wormington et al, Antineoplastic Agents: Environmental Prevalence and Adverse Outcomes in Aquatic Organisms, *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* (2020). [DOI: 10.1002/etc.4687](#)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: What are the environmental impacts of cancer drugs? (2020, April 8) retrieved 27 April

2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-04-environmental-impacts-cancer-drugs.html>

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