

## Penicillin tactics revealed by scientist

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Harvard Medical School

One of the oldest and most widely used antibiotics, penicillin, attacks enzymes that build the bacterial cell wall. Researchers have now shown that penicillin and its variants also set in motion a toxic malfunctioning of the cell's wall-building machinery, dooming the cell to a futile cycle of building and then immediately destroying that wall.

Thomas Bernhardt, associate professor of microbiology and immunobiology at Harvard Medical School, and his colleagues published this finding in *Cell*.

Hongbaek Cho, Tsuyoshi Uehara, Thomas G. Bernhardt. **Beta-Lactam Antibiotics Induce a Lethal Malfunctioning of the Bacterial Cell Wall Synthesis Machinery.** *Cell*, 2014; 159 (6): 1300  
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[http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/12/141205114011.htm?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Ftop\\_news%2](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/12/141205114011.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Ftop_news%2)