The reception of penicillin in Portugal during World War II: cooperation with Brazil and the United States of America

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Abstract
The discovery of penicillin in 1928 and its introduction as therapeutic agent in the 1940’s significantly altered the prognosis of infectious diseases and represented the starting point for research that led to the discovery of other antibiotics. Portugal was one of the first European countries, non-participant in the II World War, to obtain penicillin for civilian use. World production of the antibiotic was scarce and military forces and