

General Characteristics

Staphylococci

- Some are common inhabitants of the skin and mucous membranes.
- Spherical cells arranged in irregular clusters (grape-like clusters).
- Produces many virulence factors.
- They are catalase positive.
- Catalase & Coagulase Positive.

Streptococci

- Gram-positive cocci arranged in chain.
- Catalase & Coagulase Negative.

Gram-positive Cocci

Staphylococcus

Staphylococcus aureus

- Coagulase positive
- Catalase positive

→ Diseases:

- Food poisoning
- Localized infections
- Spreading infections
- Necrotizing infection
- Systemic infection

→ Complete hemolysis.

Staphylococcus epidermidis

- Coagulase Negative
- Catalase positive

→ Live in the skin and mucous membrane

→ Diseases:

- endocarditis
- bacteremia
- UTI

Staphylococcus saprophyticus

- Coagulase Negative
- Catalase positive

→ infrequently live on skin, intestine
Vagina; UTI.

Streptococcus

Streptococcus α-hemolytic

- Catalase and Coagulase Negative
- Partial hemolysis of RBCs.

Pyogenes (Group A)

- most serious streptococcal pathogen.

• Inhabits throat, nasopharynx occasionally skin.

→ Diseases:

- pharyngitis
- skin infections
- Necrotizing infections
- systemic infections.

Streptococcus β-hemolytic

- Catalase and Coagulase Negative.
- Complete hemolysis of RBCs.

Streptococcus γ-hemolytic

- Catalase and Coagulase Negative.
- No hemolysis of RBCs.

agalactiae (Group B)

- Normal Flora of Female genital system may cause neonatal pneumonia if inhaled during Labour.

Streptococcus pneumoniae (diplococci).

- pneumoniae inflammatory
- inhabits nasopharynx of healthy people
- may also infect Brain: (pneumoniae meningitis) and Blood stream (pneumoniae septicemia).

Gram-positive Bacilli

Bacillus

Bacillus anthracis

- Large, black-shaped rods.
- Central spores
- Virulence factors - polypeptide capsule / exotoxins
- 3 types of anthrax:
 - Cutaneous - spores enter through skin, black sore; Least dangerous.
 - Pulmonary - inhalation of spore.
 - Gastrointestinal - ingested spores.

Bacillus cereus

- grows in foods, spores survive cooking / reheating (rice dishes)
- ingestion of toxin-containing food causes nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, 24-hour duration
- No treatment.
- increasingly reported in immunosuppressed.

Clostridium

Clostridium

Botulinum

- in toxication associated with inadequate food preservation.
- Toxin carried to neuromuscular junction: blocks the release of acetylcholine necessary for muscle contraction to occur.
- Clinically
 - Double or blurred vision
 - Difficulty swallowing.
 - Neuro muscular symptoms. Flaccid paralysis.

Clostridium

Perfringens (gas gangrene)

- Soft tissue: wound infections, myonecrosis
- predisposing factors: infection of all type of wounds.
- virulence factors (lytic enzymes).

Clostridium

difficile

- Normal flora colon, in low number
- Causes antibiotic-associated colitis.
- Due to treatment with broad-spectrum antibiotics that kill other bacteria:
 - C. difficile overgrowth.
 - Enterotoxins that damage intestines.
- major cause of diarrhea in hospitals.

Clostridium tetani

- Common resident of soil and GI tracts of animals.
- Causes tetanus or lockjaw, a neuromuscular disease.
- most commonly among IV drug abusers and neonates in developing countries.

Gram positive Non-spore Formers:

Listeria monocytogenes

- Found in Soil, water luncheon, meats, hot dogs, cheese
- Resistant to Long storage and refrigeration, heat, salt, PH extremes and bile.
- Neonatal listeriosis may cause meningitis
- Adult listeriosis may cause gastroenteritis or meningitis

* Muller Hinton agar.

Corynebacterium

diphtheriae:

- Virulence Factor: diphtheria toxin
- Vaccine (DPT)
- Causes a pseudomembrane which can cause asphyxiation
- Acquired via respiratory droplets from carriers or actively infected individuals.

mycobacterium

- Gram-positive irregular bacilli
- Acid-fast staining mycolic acids.
- Strict aerobes
- Grow slowly
- Virulence factors contain complex waxes that prevent destruction by lysosomes or macrophages.