# Orientation to Gram Negative Bacteria of Medical Importance

Date: 27/10/2024

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#### Medically Important Gram-negative diplococci Neisseria

- Gram-negative intracellular diplococcus
- Two major pathogenic species
  - Neisseria gonorrhoeae:
    - Associated with Sexually Transmitted Diseases(STDs).
  - Neisseria meningitidis:
    - Associated with respiratory and CNS infections.









#### Medically Important Gram-negative coccobacilli Haemophilus: Blood – Loving Bacilli

- Fastidious: require some chemicals from blood for their growth
- H. influenzae: bacterial meningitis: children 3 months to 5 years
- Most strains have a polysaccharide capsule that resists phagocytosis.
- Colonize the mucous membranes of humans and some animals.
- *H. influenzae* type b is the most significant
  - Was the most common form of meningitis in infants prior to the use of an effective vaccine
  - Use of the Hib vaccine has eliminated much of the disease caused by H. influenzae b





#### Medically Important Gram-negative coccobacilli Bordetella

- Small, aerobic, nonmotile coccobacillus
- B. pertussis:
  - Causes pertussis, also called whopping cough.
  - Most cases of disease are in children.
  - Bacteria are first inhaled in aerosols and multiply in epithelial cells.
  - a build-up of thick mucus which causes the intense attacks of coughing as your body tries to expel it
  - swollen airways which makes breathing more difficult and causing the "whoop" sound as you gasp for breath after coughing





#### Medically Important Gram-negative coccobacilli Brucella

- Causes Brucellosis in humans following ingestion of contaminated milk or cheese from goats and cows.
- Clinical manifestations range from subclinical, to chronic with low grade symptoms of low fever and muscular stiffness, to acute with fever and chills.











### Medically Important Gram-negative bacilli Another classification



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LACTOSE FERMENTOR COLONIES

NON-LACTOSE FERMENTOR COLONIES



### Medically Important Gram-negative bacilli Enterobacteriaceae

- Ubiquitous (they are everywhere) soil, water, vegetation, normal intestinal flora
  - ~40 genera, 150 species
- Members of family commonly associated with human disease:
  - Escherichia
  - Salmonella
  - Shigella
  - Yersinia
  - Klebsiella
  - Serratia
  - Proteus



## Medically Important Gram-negative bacilli *Shigella*

- Shigella a Highly Infectious Bacteria.
- One of the leading causes of diarrhea and bacillary dysentery.
- *Shigella* is one of the most infectious of bacteria and ingestion of as few as 100- 200 organisms will cause disease.
- Most individuals are infected with *shigella* when they ingest food or water contaminated with **human fecal material.**
- Outbreaks of *Shigella* infection are common in places where sanitation is poor.
- Shigella can survive up to 30 days in milk, eggs, cheese



### Medically Important Gram-negative bacilli *Pseudomonads*

- Gram-negative, aerobic bacilli.
- Ubiquitous in soil, decaying organic matter, and almost every moist environment.
- Problematic in hospitals because they can be found in numerous locations.
- Opportunistic pathogens.









### Medically Important Gram-negative comma Vibrio

- *Vibrio cholerae* is the most common species to infect humans:
  - Causes cholera.
  - Humans become infected with *V. cholerae* by ingesting contaminated food and water.
  - Found most often in communities with poor sewage and water treatment.







### Medically Important Gram-negative comma Helicobacter pylori

- Slightly helical, highly motile bacterium that colonizes the stomach of its hosts.
- Causes most (if not all) peptic ulcers.
- *H. pylori* produces numerous virulence factors that enable it to colonize the stomach.
  - It is protected from gastric acid by endogenous urease production: **urease** converts urea to ammonia, which alkalinizes the surrounding pH but injures gastric epithelial cells.
- Coffee drinking, smoking, and drinking alcohol increase your risk for an ulcer.
- Simple blood, breath, and stool tests can determine if you are infected with H. pylori.
- The most accurate way to diagnose is through upper endoscopy.



