



**AZERBAIJAN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY and IMMUNOLOGY**

**Lesson 2.**

**Microbiology diagnosis of diseases, caused by Gram negative cocci  
(meningococci, gonococci) and opportunistic bacteria (klebsiella, proteus,  
acinetobacter, pseudomonas)**

**FACULTY: General Medicine**  
**SUBJECT: Medical microbiology - 2**

# Discussed questions:

1. Classification of gram-negative cocci
2. Meningococci, morpho-biological characteristics, pathogenicity factors and diseases caused by it.
3. Methods of microbiological diagnosis of meningococcal infections.
4. Specific treatment and prevention of meningococcal infections.
5. Gonococci, morpho-biological characteristics, pathogenicity factors and diseases caused by them.
6. Microbiological diagnosis of acute and chronic gonorrhea.
7. Treatment and prevention of gonorrhea.
8. General characteristics of opportunistic bacteria, main representatives. Their role in the occurrence of purulent-inflammatory diseases and nosocomial infections.
9. Klebsiella genus, species, morpho-biological characteristics, pathogenicity factors, diseases caused by it and their microbiological diagnosis.
10. Proteus genus, species, morpho-biological characteristics, pathogenicity factors, diseases caused by it and their microbiological diagnosis
11. Acinetobacter genus, morpho-biological characteristics, pathogenicity factors, diseases caused by it and their microbiological diagnosis
12. Morpho-biological characteristics of Pseudomonas aeruginosa, pathogenicity factors, diseases caused by it and their microbiological diagnosis.

## Purpose of the lesson:

- To inform students about the main characteristics of pathogenic neisseria (meningococci and gonococci), their role in the occurrence of diseases, to familiarize them with microbiological diagnostic methods, specific principles of prevention and treatment of these diseases. To acquaint students with the main characteristics of some opportunistic bacteria (klebsiella, proteus, acinetobacter, pseudomonas), microbiological diagnosis of diseases caused by them, specific treatment and prevention principles.

**GRAM NEGATIVE**  
(Thin cell wall and cell membrane)

**COCCUS**

**Facultative Anaerobe**

*Neisseria* spp.  
*Moraxella* spp.  
*Kingella* spp.

**Aerobe**

*Pseudomonas* spp.  
*Stenotrophomonas* spp.  
*Acinetobacter* spp.  
*Legionella* spp.  
*Bordetella* spp.  
*Aeromonas* spp.  
*Vibrio* spp.

**Microaerophilic**

*Campylobacter* spp.  
*Helicobacter* spp.

**BACILLUS**

**Facultative anaerobe**

Enterobacteriaceae  
– *Escherichia coli*  
– *Klebsiella* spp.  
– *Enterobacter* spp.  
– *Citrobacter* spp.  
– *Proteus* spp.  
– *Serratia marcescens*  
– *Salmonella* spp.  
– *Shigella* spp.  
*Haemophilus* spp.  
*Eikenella* spp.  
*Pasteurella* spp.  
*Capnocytophaga* spp.

**Anaerobe**

*Bacteroides* spp.  
*Fusobacterium* spp.

# *Neisseria* – Taxonomy

- (Domain): Bacteria
- (Kingdom): Pseudomonadota
- (Class): Betaproteobacteria
- (Order): Neisseriales
- (Family): Neisseriaceae
- (Genus): **Neisseria**
  - N. animalis
  - N. animaloris
  - N. bacilliformis
  - N. canis
  - N. cinerea
  - N. dentiae
  - N. elongata
  - N. flava
  - N. flavescens
  - N. gonorrhoeae**
  - N. iguanae
  - N. lactamica
  - N. macacae
  - N. meningitidis**
  - N. mucosa
  - N. oralis
  - N. perflava
  - N. pharyngis
  - N. polysaccharea
  - N. shayeganii
  - N. sicca
  - N. subflava
  - N. wadsworthii
  - N. weaveri
  - N. zoodegmatidis

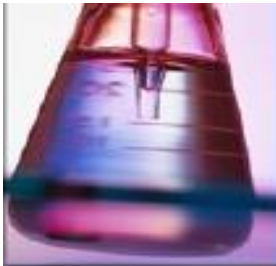
## *Neisseria* and related spp. of human origin

- *Neisseria meningitidis*
- *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
- *N. lactamica*, *N. cinerea*, *N. polysacharea*, *N. subflava*, *N. sicca*, *N. mucosa*, *N. flavescens*, *N. elongata*
- *Moraxella* (*Branhamella*) *catarrhalis* – coccoid form

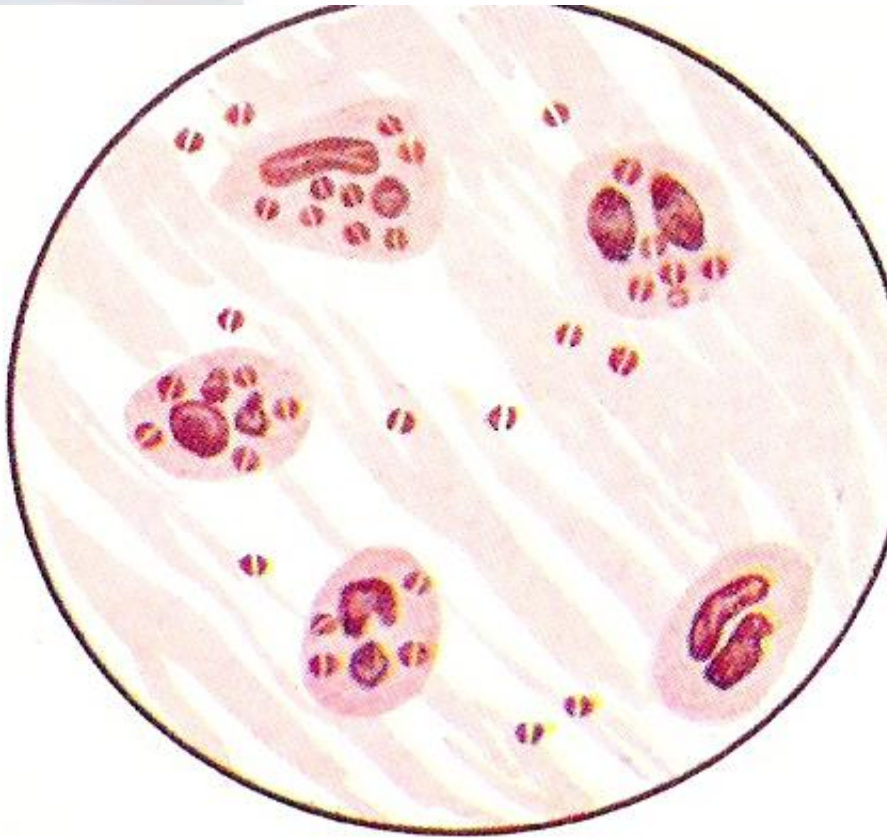


SA PATHOLOGY





## Morphology



- Capsulated Gram negative diplococci
- 0.5 – 1  $\mu\text{m}$
- Kidney shaped, flat sides adjacent
- Intracellular, usually
- Non-motile
- Non spore-forming

# CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

## Media used:

- + non selective media:
  - × Blood agar
  - × Chocolate agar
  - × Mueller-Hinton starch casein hydrolysate agar
- + Selective media
  - × Modified Thayer-Martin Agar

## × Colony characteristics

- + Color: Bluish grey
- + Shape: Round
- + Size: About 1mm
- + Surface: Smooth
- + Elevation: Convex
- + Opacity: Translucent
- + Consistency: Butyrous



**N.meningitidis**  
**Blood agar**



# BIOCHEMICAL TESTS

BIOCHEMICAL TESTS

- Oxidase positive
- Catalase positive
- Ferments glucose and maltose with acid production
- Doesn't ferment lactose, sucrose and fructose
- Nitrate negative
- Colistin resistant
- Gamma-glutamyl aminopeptidase positive
- DNAase Positive



# Virulence factors

## ■ ANTIGENS

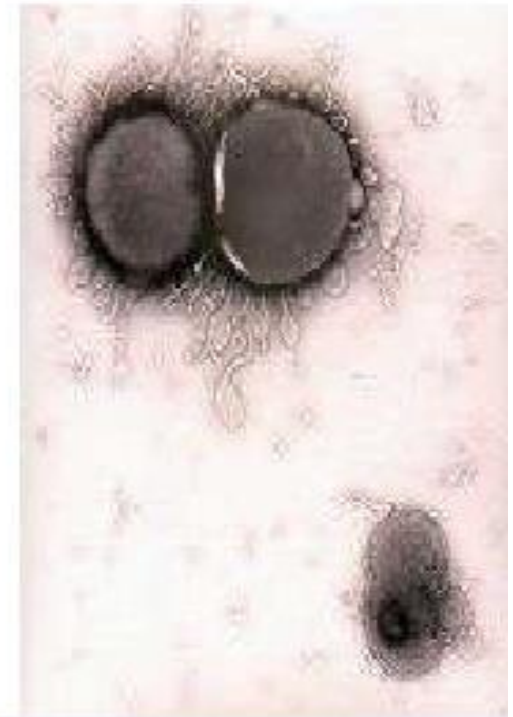
### Capsular polysaccharide

- 13 serogroups (A, B, C, D, W 135, X, Y, Z, H, K & L)
- Used in vaccine
- Serogroups A, B, C, Y, W135 account for about 90% of all infections

## ■ OMP

- 5 classes
- Serogroups further subdivided into 20 serotypes

## ■ PILI





## ■ TOXIN

### ENDOTOXIN

- Lipid A part of **lipopolysaccharide**
- Causes fever and shock

## ■ ENZYME

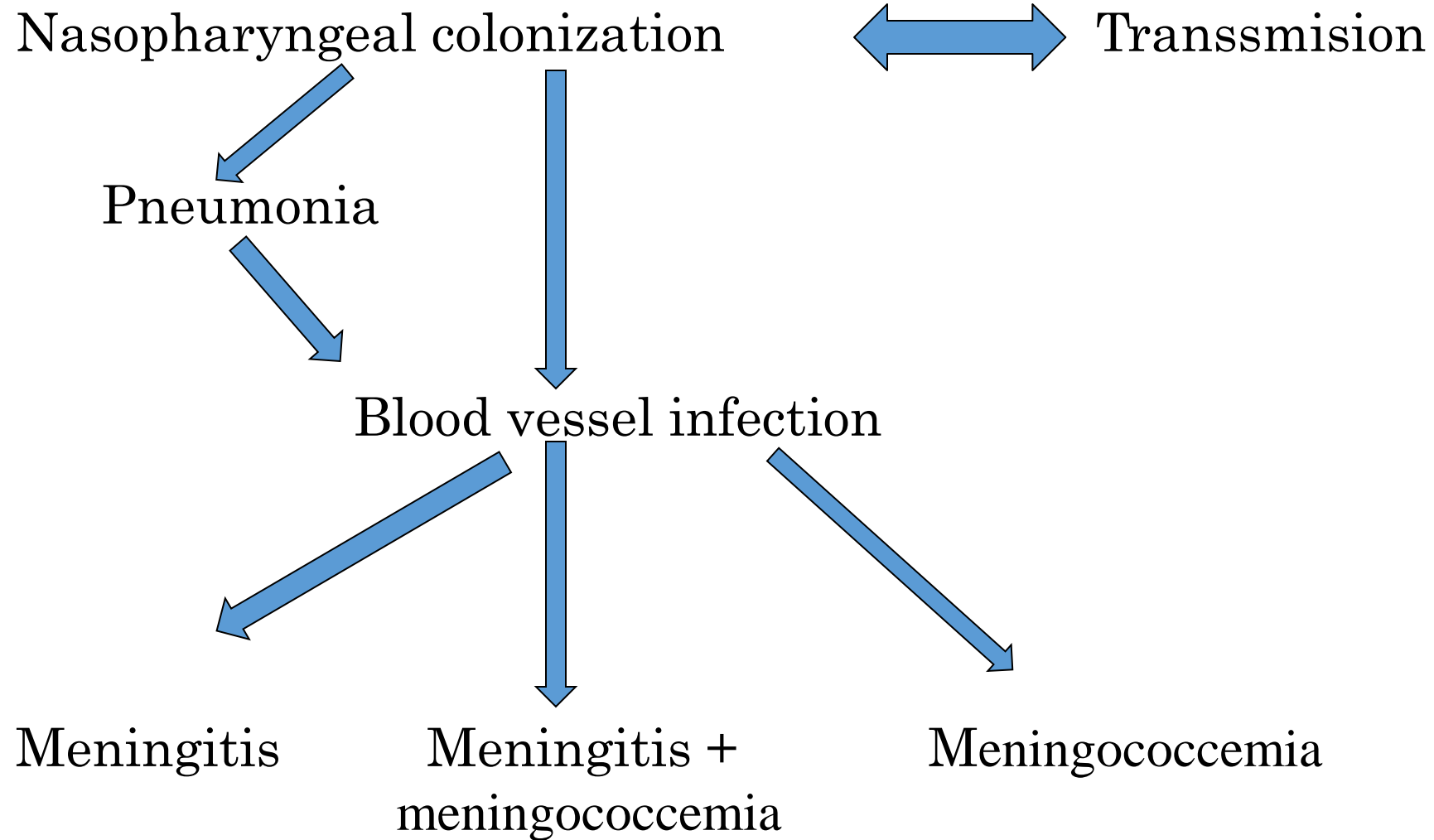
IgA Protease



**TABLE 26-4****Virulence factors of *Neisseria meningitidis***

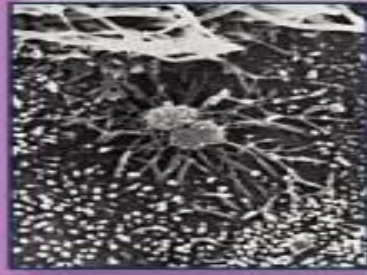
Virulence factors	Biological functions
Capsule	Prevents phagocytosis
LOS endotoxin	Causes damage of the blood vessels associated with meningococcal infections
IgA protease	Destroys IgA immunoglobulin, thereby helps gonococci to attach to the epithelial cells of the upper respiratory tract
Lipooligosaccharides	Stimulates release of TNF- $\alpha$ , which results in host cell damage

# Pathogenesis of meningococcal infections



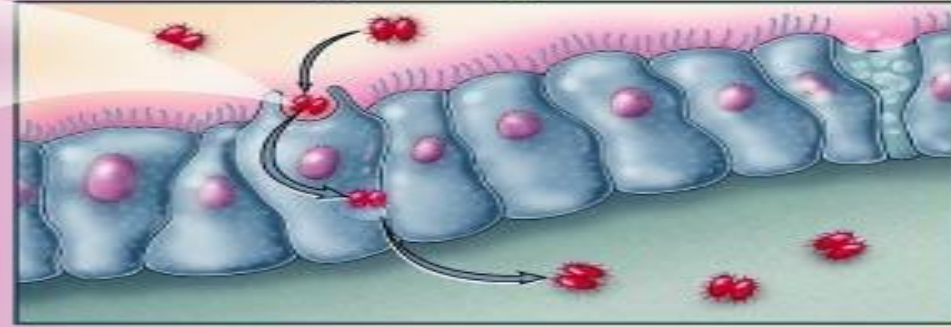


Nasopharyngeal mucosa



Attachment to and interaction with nasopharyngeal epithelium

Passage through the mucosa



Survival in the bloodstream



- Factors affecting intravascular survival**
- **Capsule:** protects against complement-mediated bacteriolysis and phagocytosis
  - **Acquisition of iron from transferrin**

Endotoxin and other cell components

Host-cell cytokine production

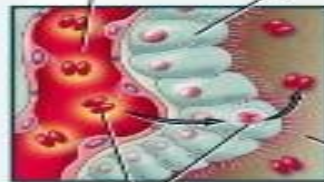
Alternative complement pathway

**Inflammatory cytokines**  
(tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$ , interleukin-1 $\beta$ , 6, 8)

**Antiinflammatory cytokines**  
(interleukin-10)

Crossing of the blood-brain barrier

Blood vessel  
Blood-brain barrier endothelium

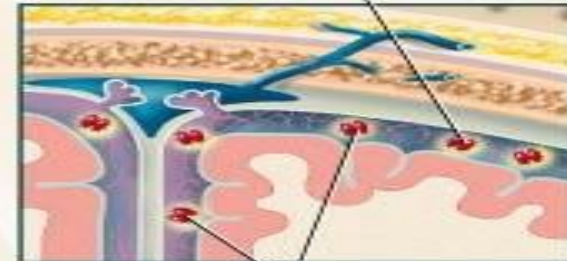


*N. meningitidis*

Cerebrospinal fluid



Multiplication in subarachnoid space

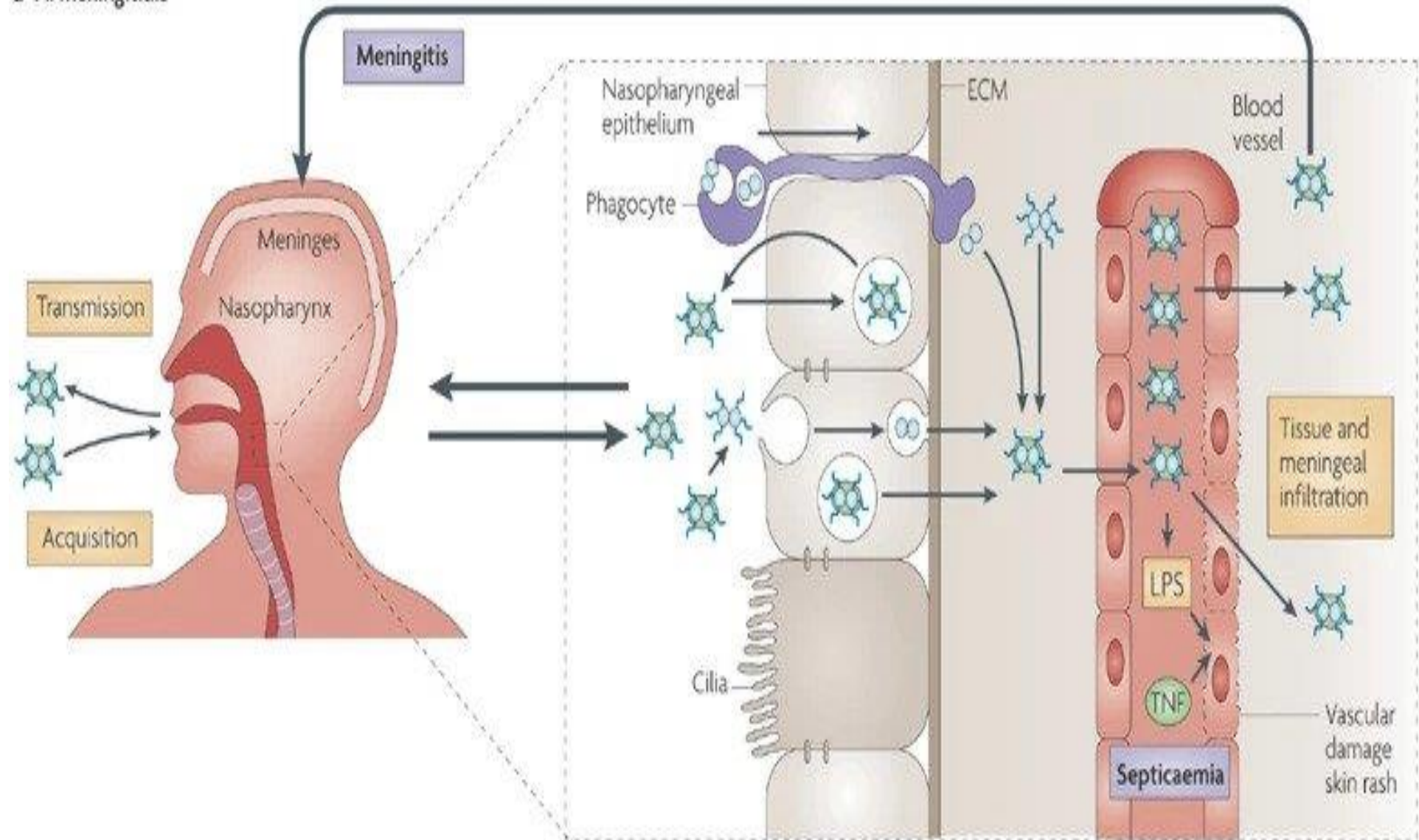


*N. meningitidis*

Cerebrospinal fluid

# Pathogenesis of cerebrospinal meningitis

a *N. meningitidis*







# Epidemiology

- **Reservoir and Habitat**

- Upper respiratory tract of humans

- **Transmission**

- Direct contact and air borne droplets
- Close contact with infectious person (e.g., family members, day care centers, military barracks, prisons, and other institutional settings)

- **Incubation period:** 1-7 days

- **Carriage**

- 5-30% of normal persons may harbor meningococci in nasopharynx



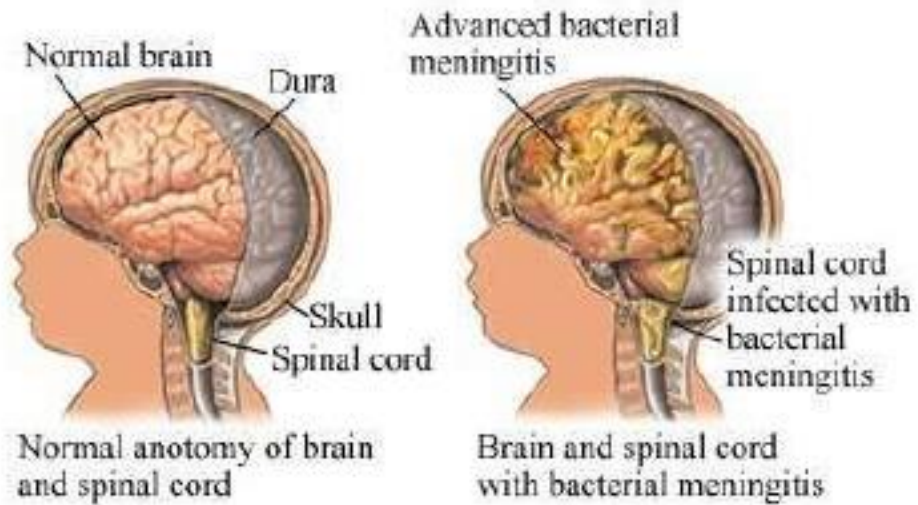


## Diseases - *N. meningitidis*

- Meningitis
- Meningococchemia
  - Septicemia with or without meningitis
- Meningoencephalitis
- Pneumonia
- Bacteremia
- Arthritis
- Urethritis

# Meningitis

- Inflammation of the membranes of the brain or spinal cord







## Etiology

## Infectious

Organism	Common types	Diagnosis
Bacteria	<i>Hemophilus influenzae</i> <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	Leukocyte count and differential Gram stain Acridine orange stain Glucose Protein Culture
Viruses	Enteroviruses Other (mumps, herpes)	Leukocyte count and differential Glucose Protein Culture
Fungi	<i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i> <i>Candida sp.</i> <i>Coccidioides immitis</i>	Gram stain India ink preparation Latex agglutination Culture



## Clinical features

## Symptoms

IN ADULTS



Vomiting



Fever



Headache



Stiff neck



Light aversion



Drowsiness

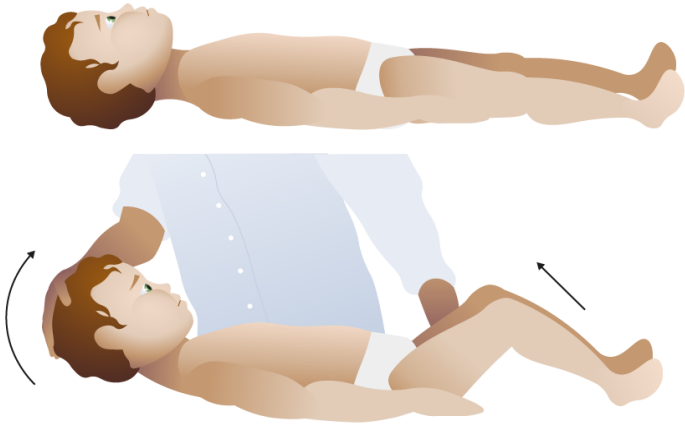


Joint pain



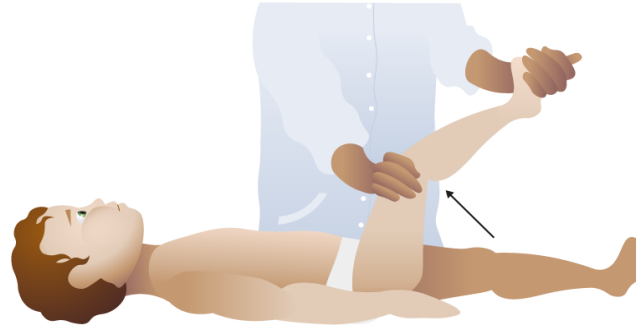
Fitting

# Meningitis – clinical features



## **Brudzinski's sign:**

Flexion of the hips and knees in response to neck flexion

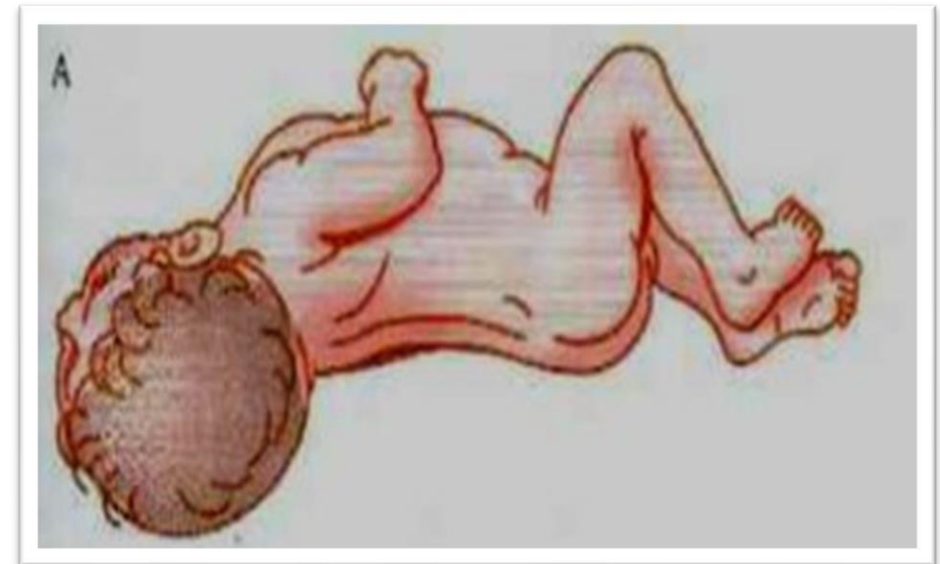


## **Kernig's sign:**

Resistance to extension of leg while the hip is flexed

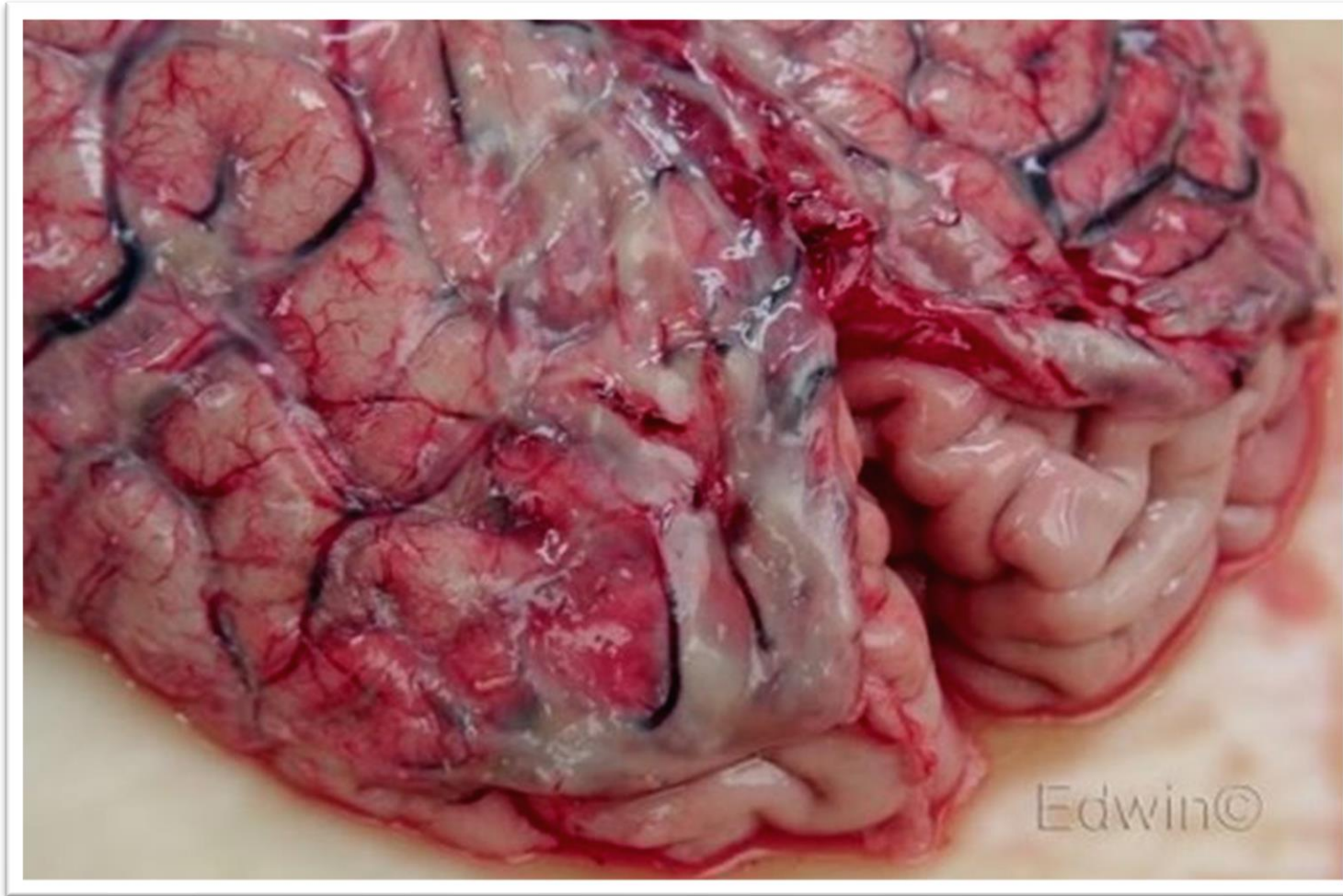
## **Pulled trigger position (sleeping form)**

(the head of the patient lying on his side is pulled back, his legs are bent at the knee and hip joints and pressed to the stomach)





## **Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis (purulent meningitis)**



# Meningococemia (rashes)



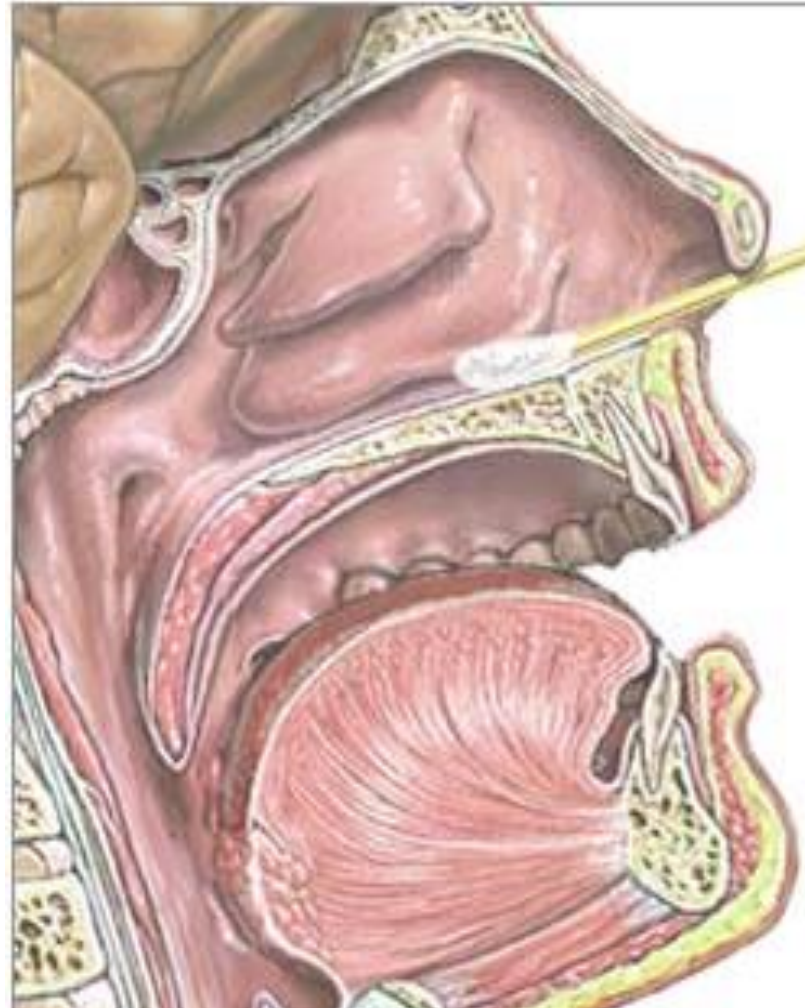
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# Microbiological diagnostics:

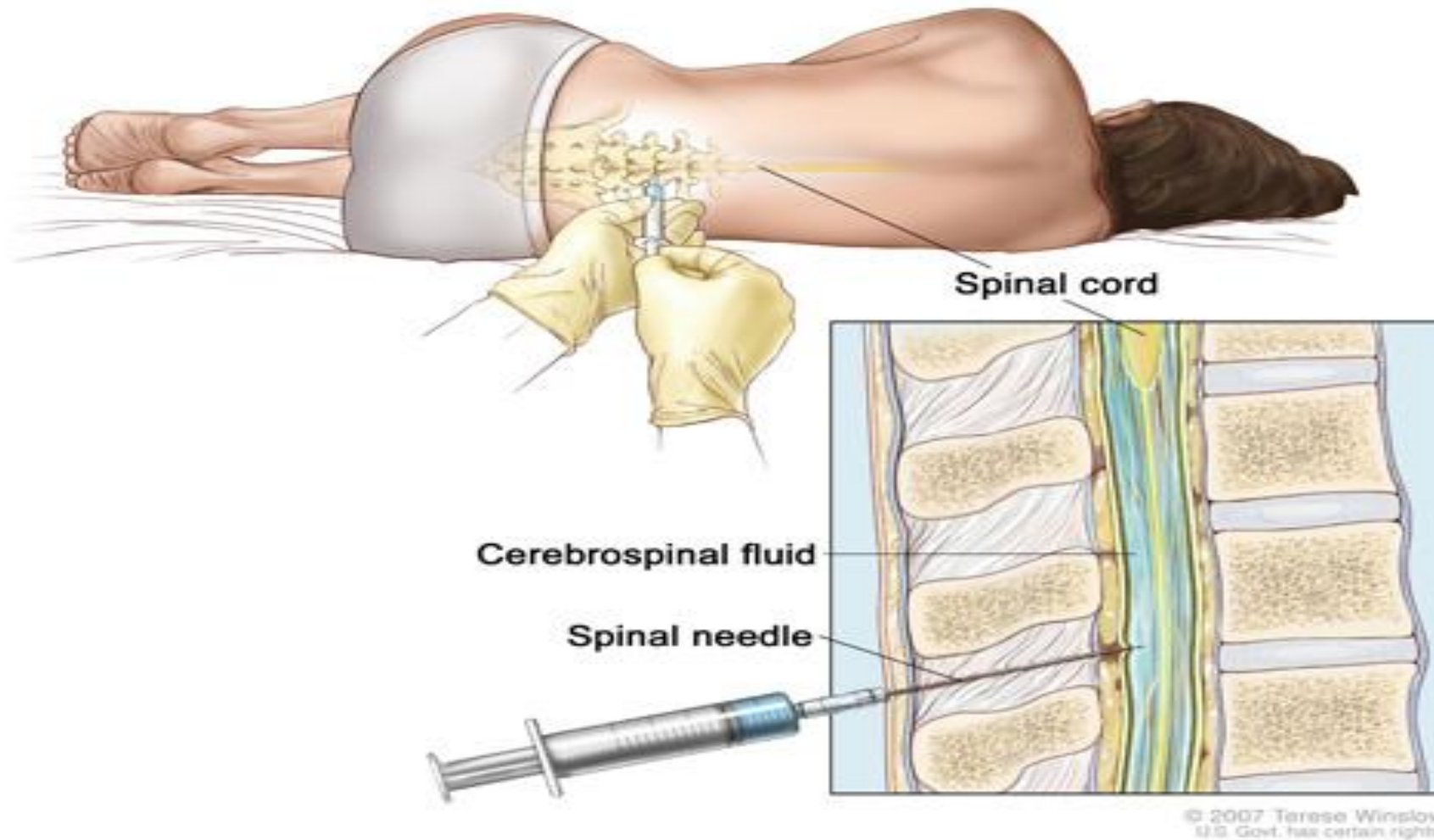
## Pathological material:

- *cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)*
- *blood*
- *nasopharyngeal mucus*
- *punctate from rash element*



A sterile swab is passed gently through the nostril and into the nasopharynx

# Collection of cerebrospinal fluid (lumbar puncture)





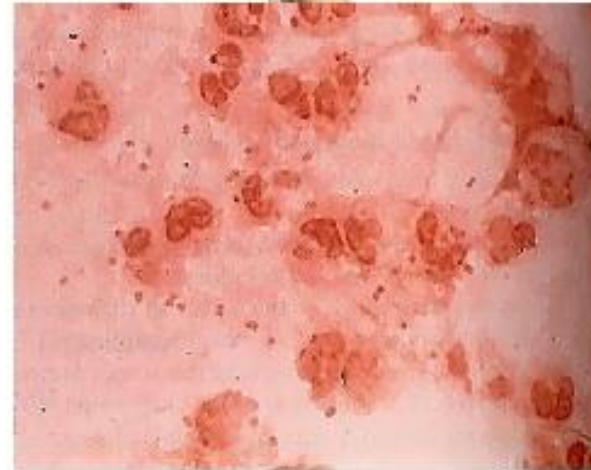
# CSF – Acute Bacterial Meningitis

## ■ CSF (Lumbar puncture)

- Cloudy or purulent
- Elevated pressure
- Increased protein
- Decreased glucose
- Cell count
  - Usually  $>1000$  cells/ $\mu\text{L}$  with Neutrophils predominating
- Gram stain
  - Gram negative intracellular diplococci



Se extrae el líquido cefalorraquídeo  
de entre dos vértebras





## CSF evaluation

	Normal	Bacterial	Viral	TB
Cells	0-5	>1000	<1000	<500
Polymorphs	0	Predominate	Early	+/- increased
Lymphocytes	5	Late	Predominate	Increased
Glucose	60-80	Decreased	Normal	Decreased
CSF : plasma Glucose ratio	66%	<40%	Normal	< 30%
Protein	5-40	Increased	+/- Increased	Increased
Culture	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive (MTB)



# Meningococemia



## Clinical features

- **Intravascular multiplication of *N. meningitidis***
  - Abrupt onset of spiking fevers, chills, arthralgia, joint and muscle pains
  - Abrupt onset of hypotension and tachycardia
  - Rapidly enlarging petechial lesions
  - Wide spread purpura
  - Shock
  - DIC
  - Coma
  - Death ensues within hours







## Skin Lesions of Meningococccemia



**NOTE:** Petechiae have coalesced into hemorrhagic bullae





## Laboratory diagnosis

- **Specimens**

- Blood and CSF for smear and culture
- Nasopharyngeal swab for carrier state

- **Culture media**

- Blood agar
- Chocolate agar
- Selective medium

(Modified Thayer-Martin medium)

- To avoid contamination vancomycin, amphotericin B and colistin are added



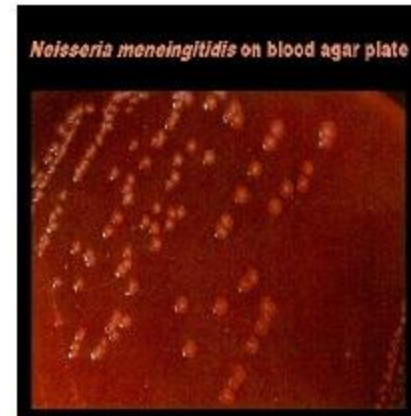
Chocolate Agar for Neisseria & Haemophilus



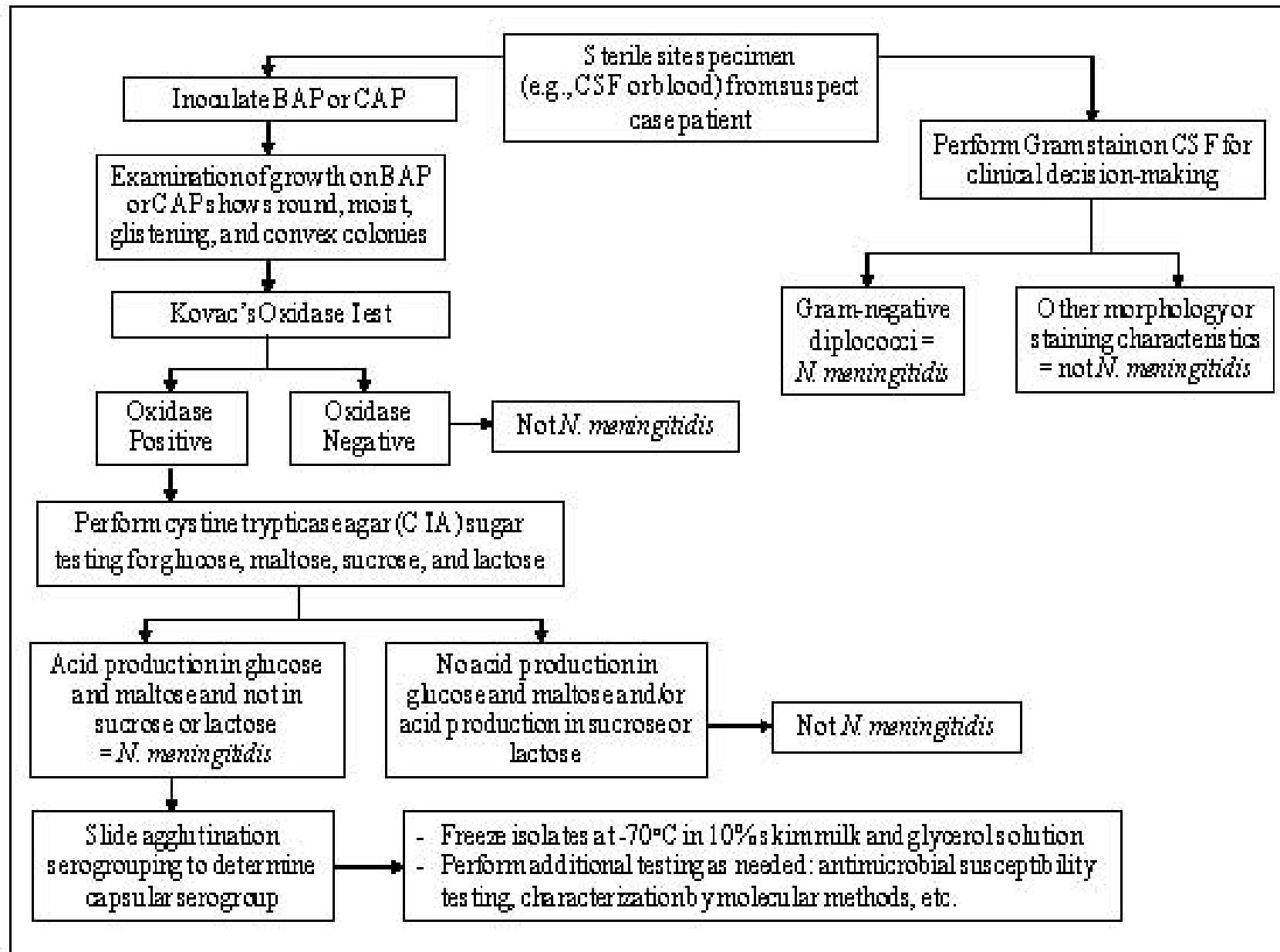


## Growth characteristics

- Oxygen Requirement
  - Aerobic or facultative anaerobic
- Temperature
  - 37°C
- Growth promoted by
  - 5-10% CO<sub>2</sub>
- Colony morphology
  - 1-2 mm dia, convex, grey, translucent, non-pigmented and non-hemolytic
  - After 48 hours, colonies are larger with an opaque raised centre and transparent margins



# *N. meningitidis* – cultural identification

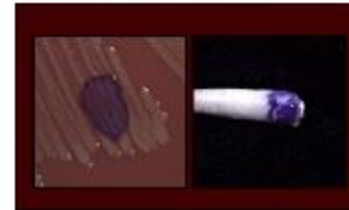




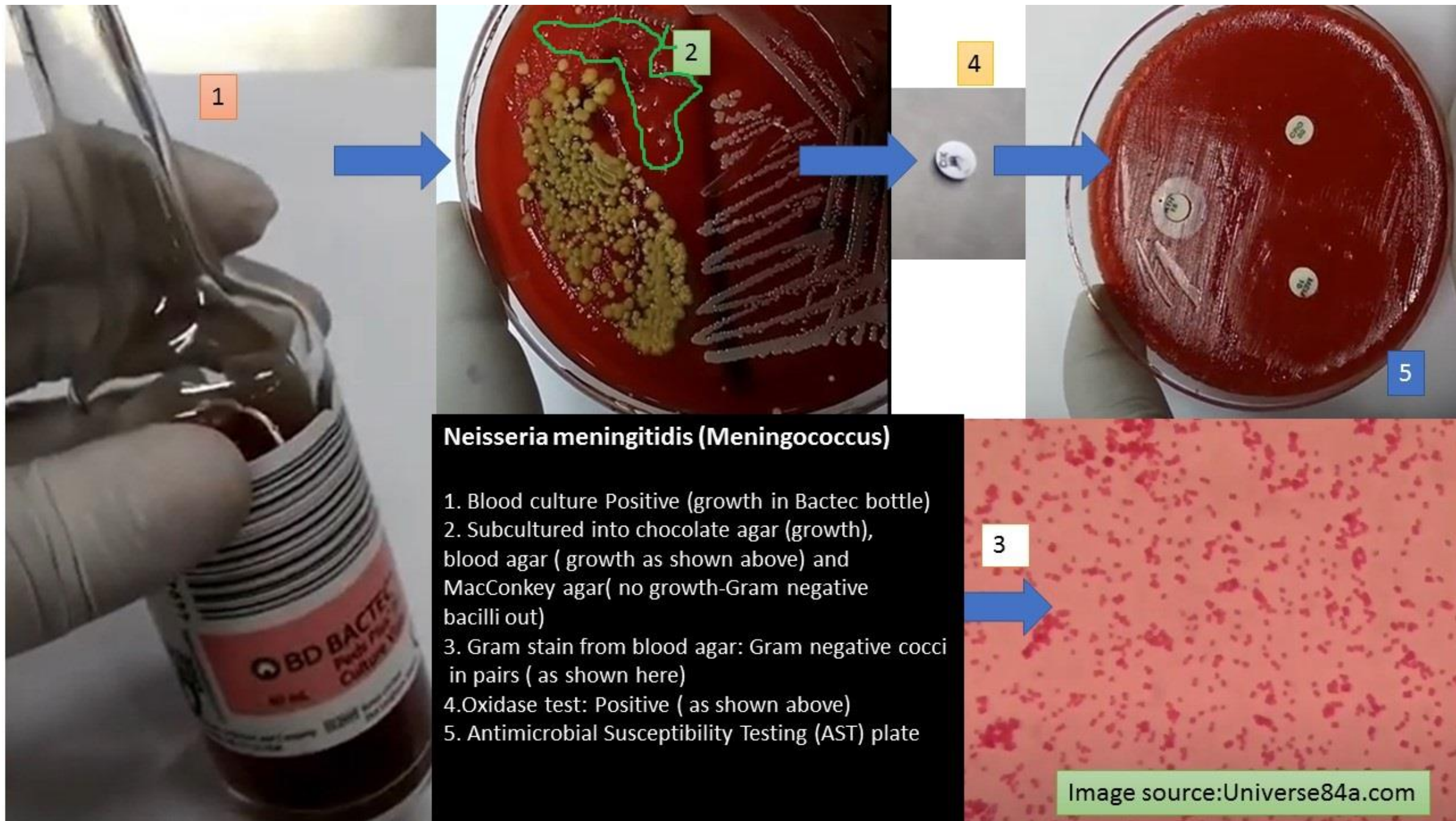


## Biochemical reactions

- Oxidase positive
- Ferments **glucose** and **maltose** but not sucrose or lactose



Characteristic	<i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>	<i>N. meningitidis</i>	<i>N. lactamica</i>	<i>N. sicca</i>	<i>N. mucosa</i>	<i>N. flavescens</i>
Growth on:						
CHOC, BA (22°C)	0	0	V	+	+	+
MTM, ML (35°C)	+	+	+	0	0	0
Nutrient agar (35°C)	0	V	+	+	+	+
Acid from:						
Glucose	+	+	+	+	+	0
Maltose	0	+	+	+	+	0
Lactose	0	0	+	0	0	0
Sucrose	0	0	0	+	+	0
Fructose	0	0	0	+	+	0
Nitrate reduction	0	0	0	0	+	0





## Antibiotic sensitivity testing

- Ampicillin/Penicillin
- Ceftriaxone
- Chloramphenicol
- Rifampicin
- Ciprofloxacin
- Meropenem







## Immunity and Prevention

- Infants - passive immunity from mothers
- Under 2 years of age - do not reliably produce antibodies with bacterial polysaccharides
- Quadrivalent meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (A,C,Y & W135)
- The use of meningococcal vaccine should be strongly advised if an outbreak occurs





## *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (Gonococcus)

- ✗ *N. gonorrhoeae* causes the sexually transmitted disease **gonorrhoea**.
- ✗ first described by Neisser in 1879 in gonorrheal pus.
- ✗ resembles meningococci very closely in many properties.

# MORPHOLOGY:

## Morphology



Gram negative

oval/spherical cocci

usually found with in the polymorphs

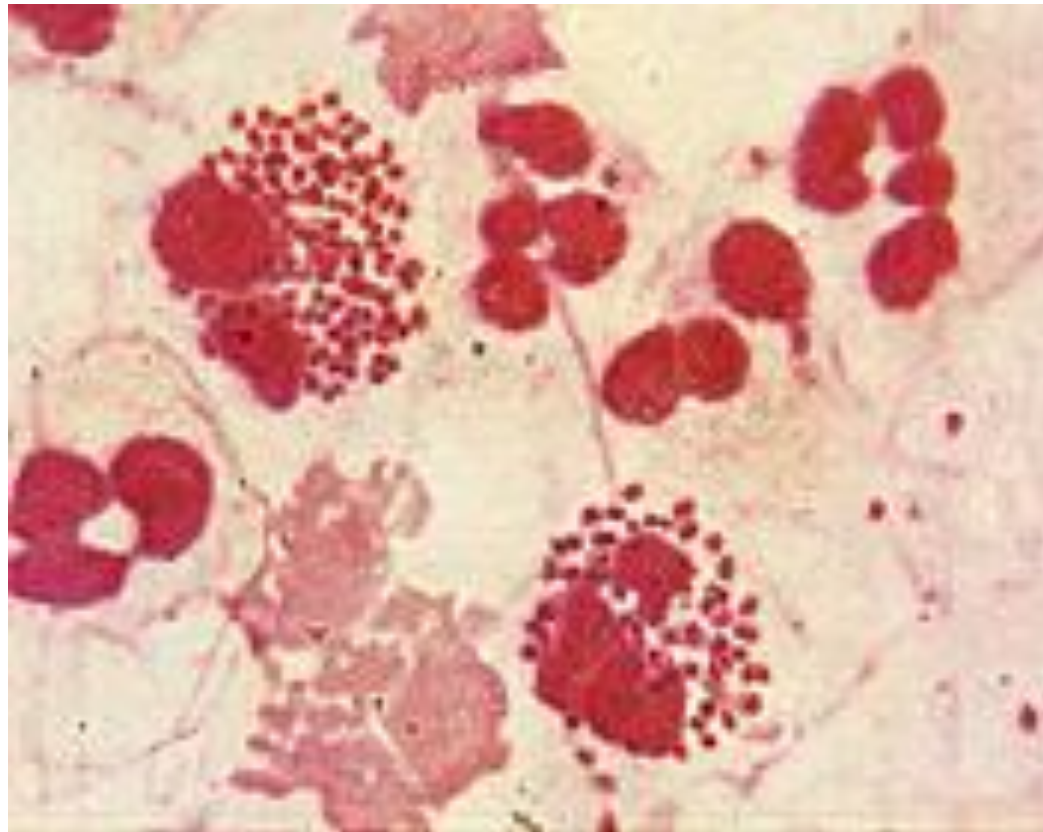
Arranged in pairs (**adjacent sides concave**)

**Kidney shaped**

possess pili on their surface

# Neisseria gonorrhoeae

(smear from urethral discharge)



## CULTURE & CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- ✗ fastidious organisms do not grow on ordinary culture media.
- ✗ aerobic but may grow anaerobically also
- ✗ The optimum temperature for growth is 35-36 °C & optimum pH is 7.2-7.6.
- ✗ It is essential to provide 5-10% CO<sub>2</sub>.



## Media used:

- a) Non selective media: Chocolate agar,  
Mueller-Hinton agar  
Modified New York City  
medium
- b) Selective media: Thayer Martin medium  
with antibiotics (Vancomycin, Colistin &  
Nystatin)

**Colony morphology:** Colonies are

small

round

translucent

convex or slightly umbonate

finely granular surface

lobate margins.



## Biochemical reactions:

- 1) Oxidase test: Positive
- 2) Ferments only glucose but not maltose.



## BIOCHEMICAL TESTS

1. Catalase: positive (+ve)
2. Oxidase: positive (+ve)
3. Carbohydrate utilization:

Specie	Glucose	Maltose
<i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>	Acid (+ve)	(- ve)
<i>N. meningitidis</i>	Acid (+ve)	Acid (+ve)

## Antigenic structure & virulence factors:

**1. Pili**

**2. Lipooligosaccharide:** Endotoxic.

**3. Outer membrane proteins:** 3 types

- a) Protein I (por)- it is a porin & helps in adherence.
- b) Protein II (opa)- helps in adherence.
- c) Protein III (rmp)- it is associated with protein I.

**4. IgA1 protease:** Splits & inactivates IgA.



# GONOCOCCI

## VIRULENCE FACTORS

1) *Outer membrane protein*

2) *Pili : Virulence*

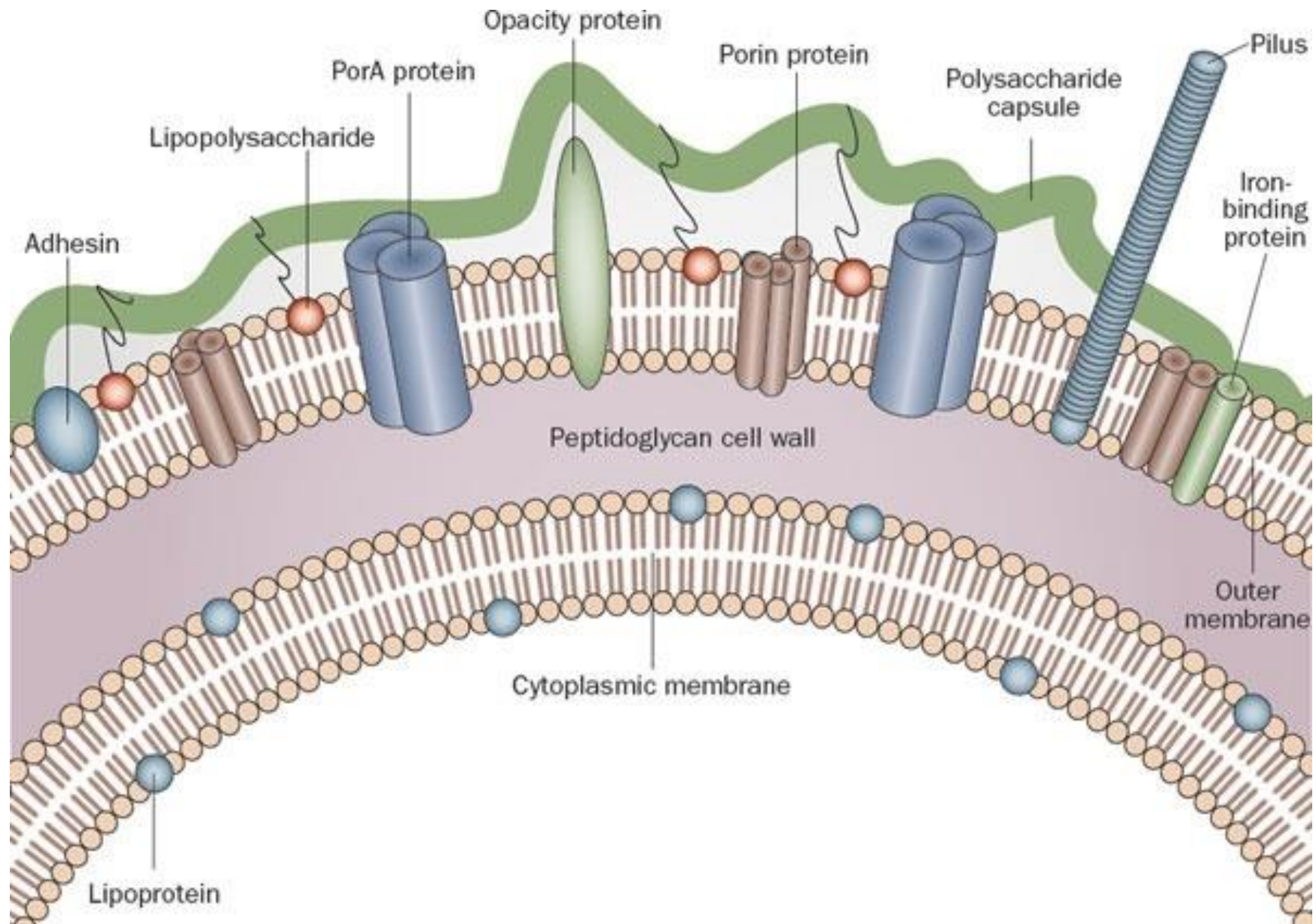
3) *Lipopolysaccharide*

4) *Capsular polysaccharide : Not responsible for symptoms*

5) *Lactoferrin and transferrin*

} Same as Meningococci

## *Gonococci* - virulence factors



# Gonorrhea: Pathogenesis

**Authors:**

Ryan Iwasiw

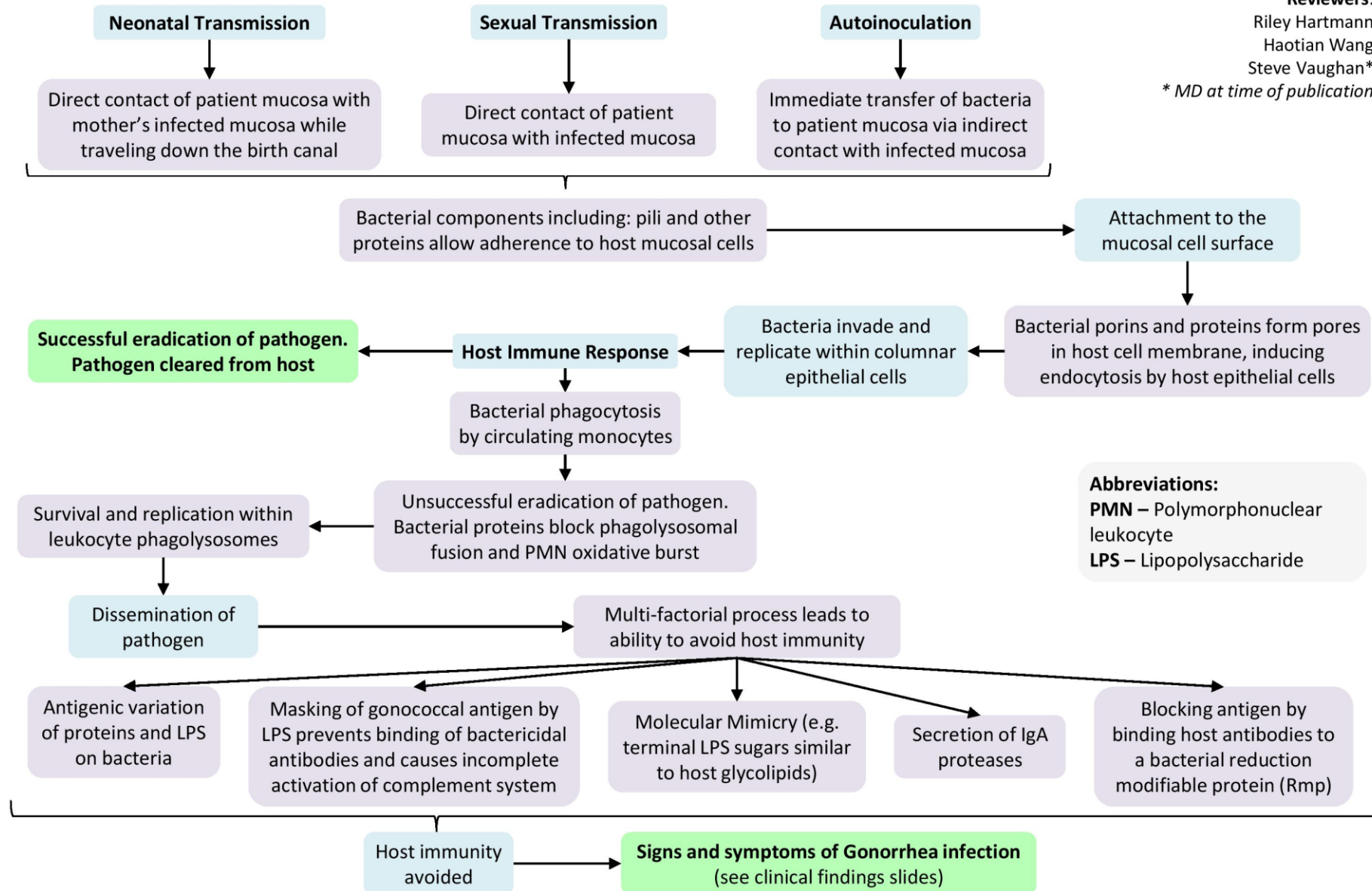
**Reviewers:**

Riley Hartmann

Haotian Wang

Steve Vaughan\*

\* MD at time of publication



## Abbreviations:

**PMN** – Polymorphonuclear leukocyte

**LPS** – Lipopolysaccharide

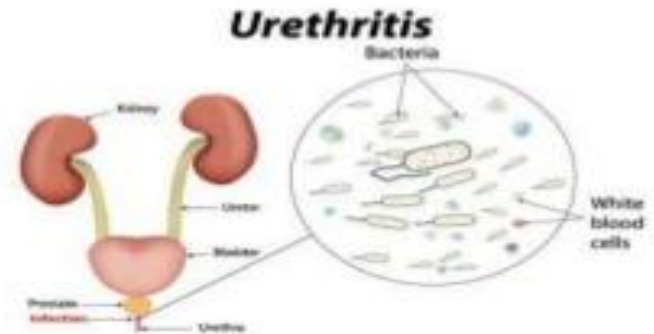
# GONOCOCCI

## DISEASES

*Ophthalmia neonatorum in newborns*

MC: **Urethritis** in **males**

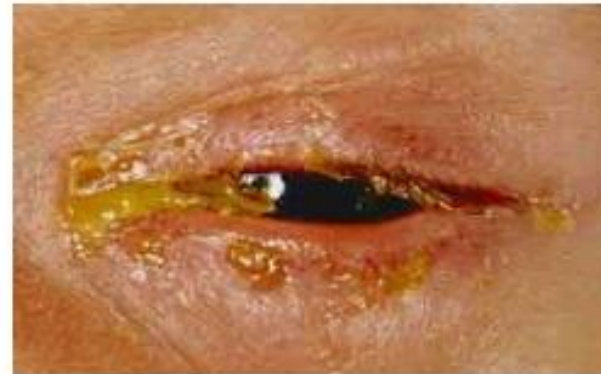
MC: **cervicitis** in **females**





## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM:

- **EYE INFECTION IN THE NEWBORN.**
- **RESULTS DUE TO DIRECT INFECTION DURING PASSAGE THROUGH THE BIRTH CANAL.**



# GONOCOCCI

## LAB DIAGNOSIS

### SAMPLES

- Eye swab
- Urethral swab
- Endocervical swab

Media : *Thayer Martin media*

*Modified new York media*

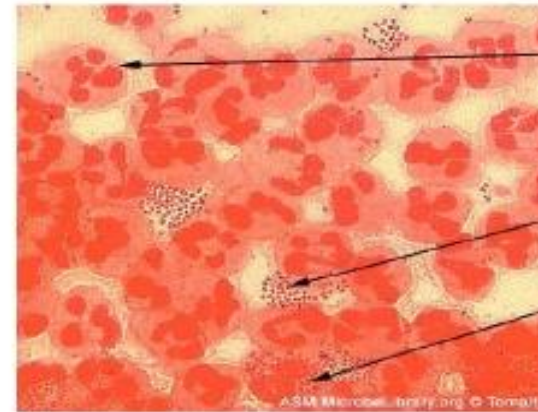
## LAB DIAGNOSIS

### SPECIMEN:

- **PUS EXUDATES - URETHRAL AND VAGINAL.**
- **VAGINAL AND CERVICAL SWABS.**
- **TRANSPORT MEDIUM: STUART'S MEDIUM.**

### DIRECT MICROSCOPY:

- **INTRACELLULAR GRAM NEGATIVE KIDNEY SHAPED DIPLOCOCCI.**
- **FLUORESCENT ANTIBODY TECHNIQUE – RAPID, SENSITIVE AND SPECIFIC DIAGNOSIS.**



**INTRACELLULAR GRAM  
NEGATIVE DIPLOCOCCI**

## LAB DIAGNOSIS- CONT.,

### CULTURE:

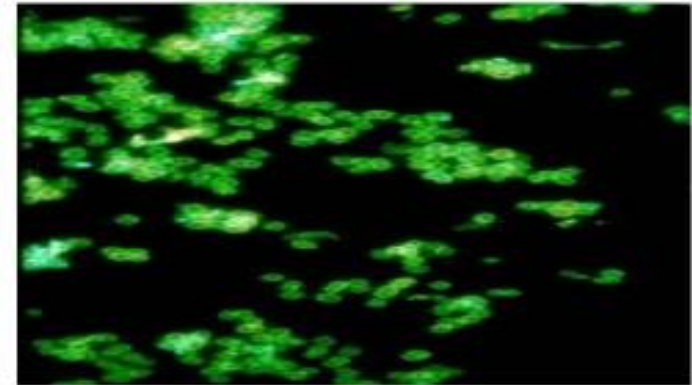
- CHOCOLATE AGAR.
- SELECTIVE MEDIA: THAYER MARTIN.
- INCUBATION AT 37° C IN THE PRESENCE OF 5-10% OF CARBON DIOXIDE.

### BIOCHEMICAL REACTION:

- GLUCOSE FERMENTATION.
- OXIDASE POSITIVE.

### SEROLOGY:

- IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE.
- RIA.
- ELISA



IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE



# Treatment and prevention

- Treatment - beta-lactamase-resistant cephalosporins (ceftriaxone), new generation macrolides (azithromycin) are used.
- Specific treatment - antibiotic therapy in chronic complicated gonorrhea is carried out against the background of specific (gonovaxin) or non-specific (pyrogenal) immunotherapy.
- **There is no specific prevention.**

**Microbiology diagnosis of diseases, caused by  
opportunistic bacteria (klebsiella, proteus,  
acinetobacter, pseudomonas)**

# Klebsiella spp.

## Taxonomy :

- | Domain = Bacteria
- | Phylum = Proteobacteria
- | Class = Gammaproteobacteria
- | Order = Enterobacteriales
- | Family = Enterobacteriaceae
- | Genus = *Klebsiella*
- | Species = *k.pneumonia* , *k.ozaenae*  
*k.rhinoscleromatis*.



# *Klebsiella*

***K. pneumoniae*** complex  
(KpSC):

- *K. pneumoniae*
- *K. quasipneumoniae*
- *K. variicola*
- *K. quasivariicola*
- *K. africana*

*Others*

- *K. indica*,
- *K. terrigena*,
- *K. spallanzanii*,
- *K. huaxiensis*,
- *K. oxytoca*,
- *K. grimontii*,
- *K. pasteurii*
- *K. michiganensis*



## Characteristics:

1. gram-negative
2. Non motile
3. Lactose fermenting
4. Oxidase negative
5. Rod shaped organism
6. Facultative anaerobe
7. Surrounded by thick capsule
8. Act as oppurtunistic human pathogen



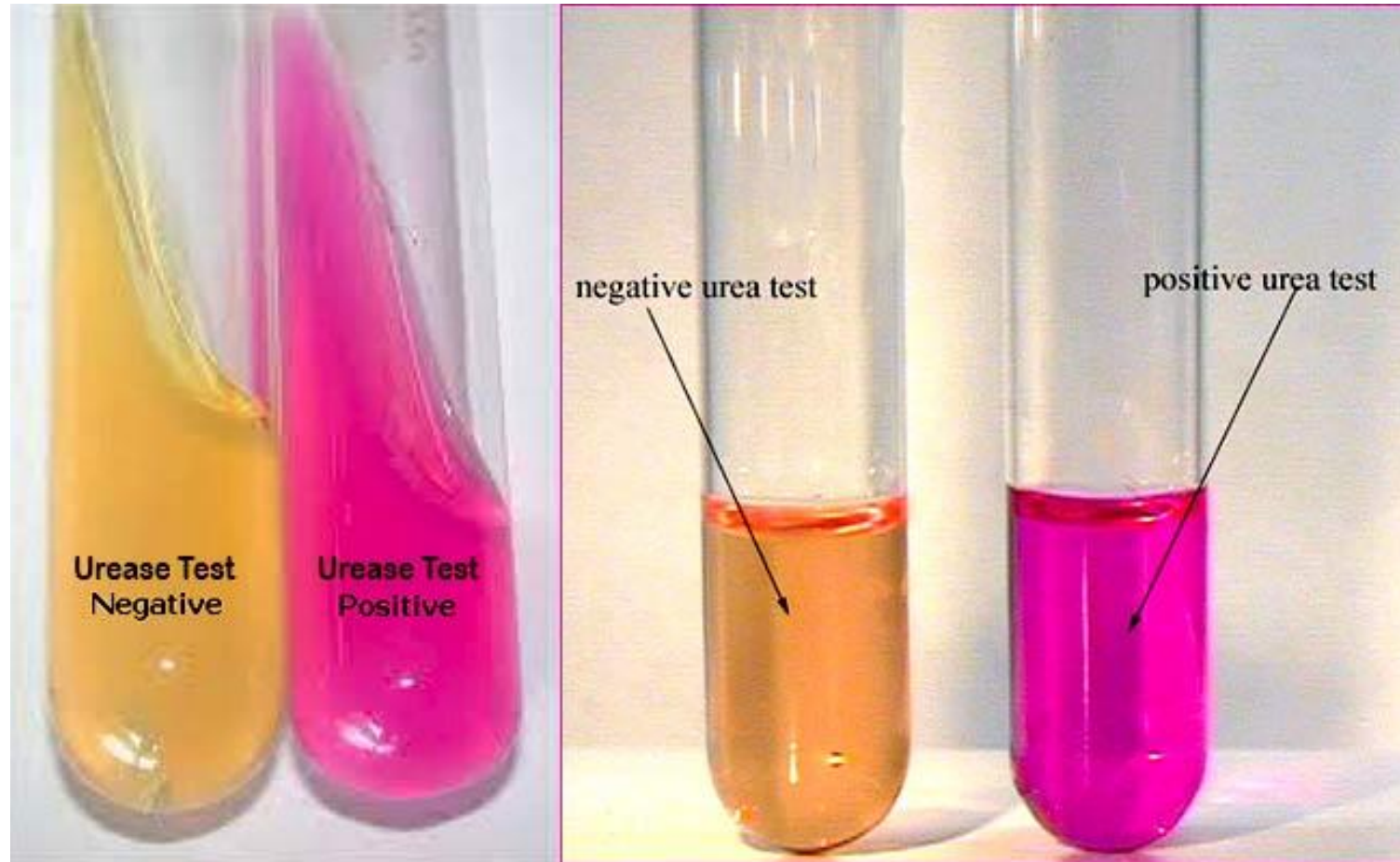
## Where it is found?

- 1) Found in the normal flora of the nose, mouth, skin, GI tract and intestines.
- 2) It is also found in soil and water.

Generally, Klebsiella infections are seen mostly in people with a weakened immune system.

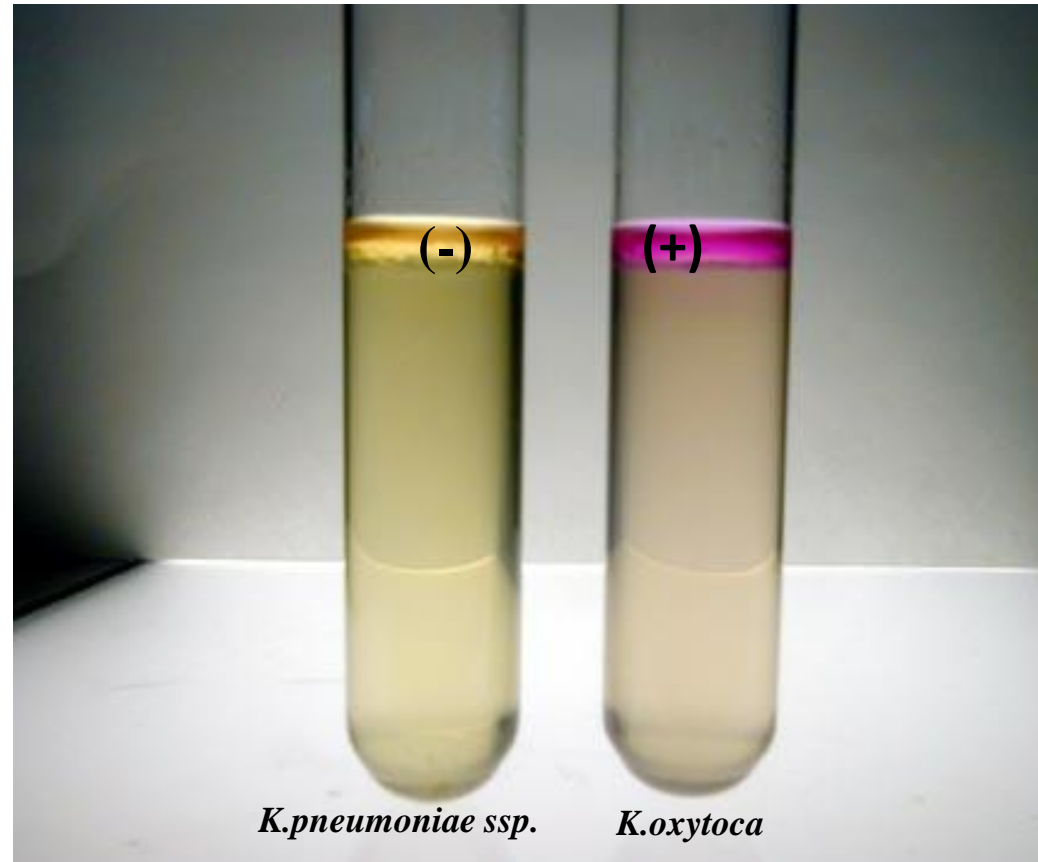
Tests	<i>K. pneumonia</i>	<i>K. oxytoca</i>	<i>K. terrigena</i>
Capsule	+	+	+
Oxidase	-	-	-
Catalase	+	+	+
Indole	-	+	-
Methyl red	-	-	+
Voges proskauer	+	+	+
Citrate utilization	+	+	+
Urease production	+	+	-
Motility	-	-	-

## Identification of *Klebsiella* bacteria (positive urease test)

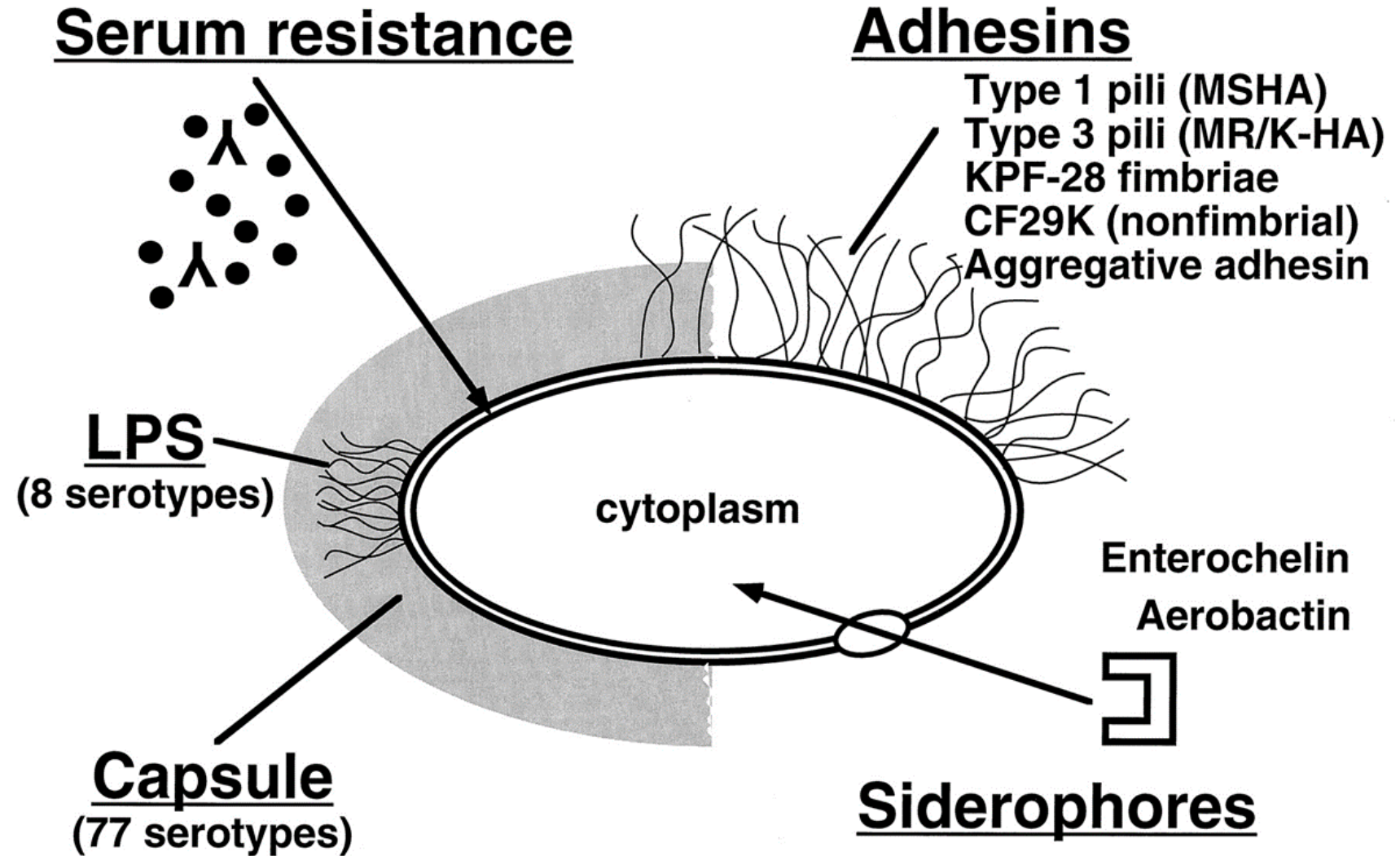




## Identification of *Klebsiella* bacteria (indole test)



# VIRULENCE FACTORS



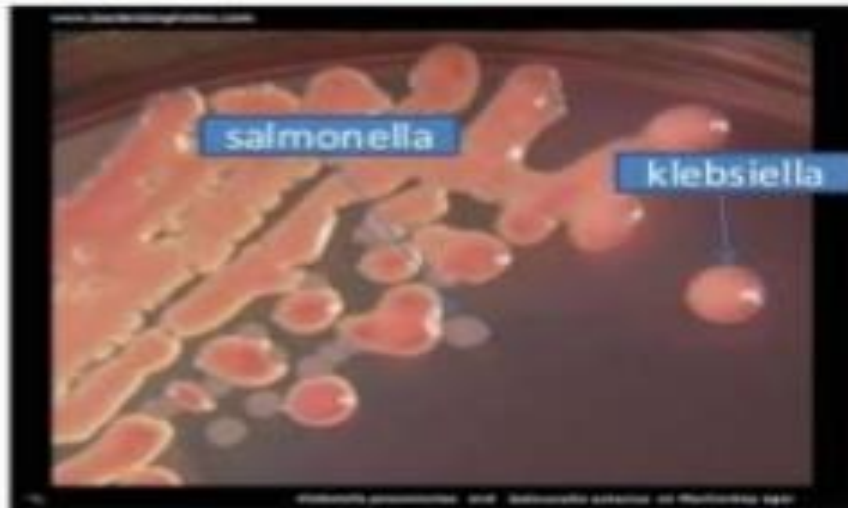
## On blood agar

-slimy appearance of the colonies



## On MacConkey agar

- red/pink colonies



*Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Salmonella enterica* on MacConkey agar:  
**lactose + and -**

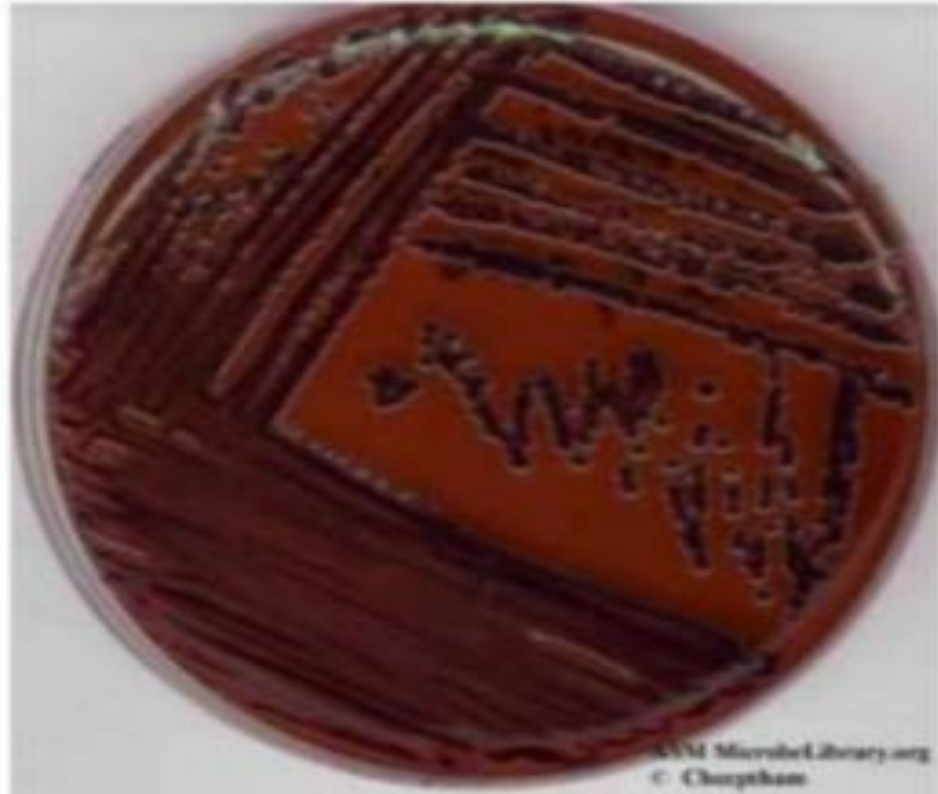


Mucous, lactose positive colonies  
of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* on  
MacConkey agar. Cultivation 37°C, 24  
hours.



## On EMB

- *Klebsiella* species produces large, mucoid, pink to purple colonies with no metallic green sheen on EMB agar.



## India ink capsule stain

- The background will be dark.
- The bacterial cells will be stained purple.
- The capsule (if present) will appear clear against the dark background.



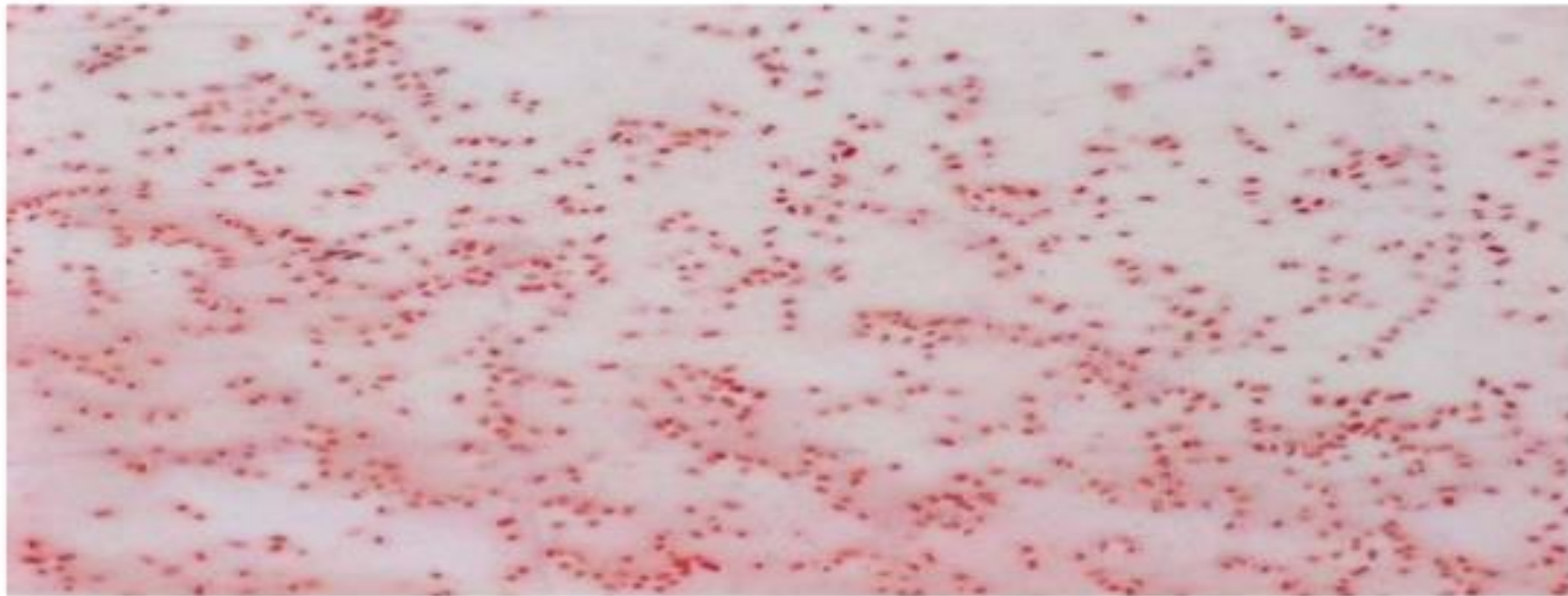
India Ink Capsule Stain of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* showing white capsules (Glycocalyx) surrounding purple cells

# Laboratory diagnosis

- Specimen
- Sputum.
- Urine.
- pus.
- CSF.



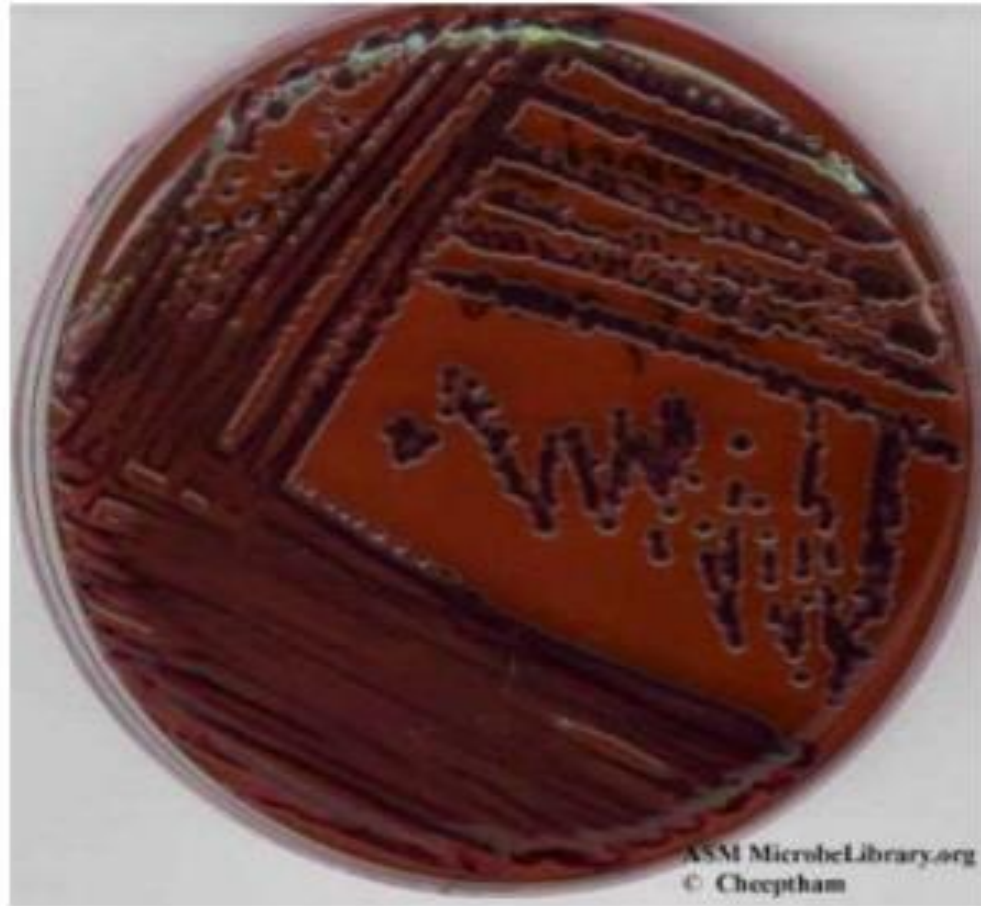
- **Gram stain:**  
gram-negative rods





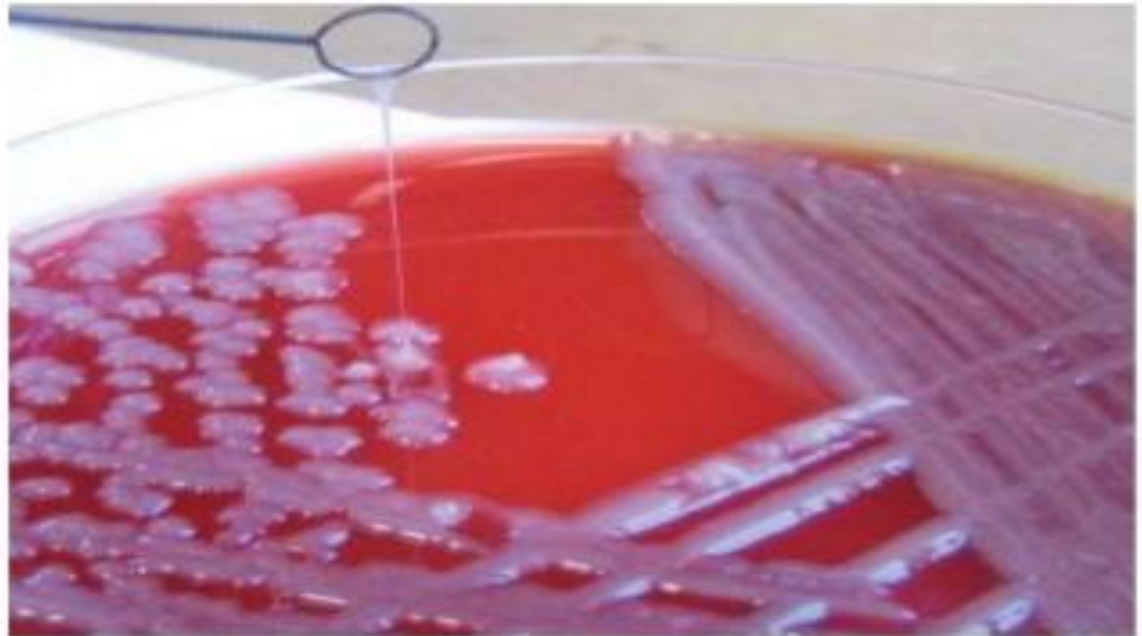
## On EMB

- *Klebsiella* species produces large, mucoid, pink to purple colonies with no metallic green sheen on EMB agar.

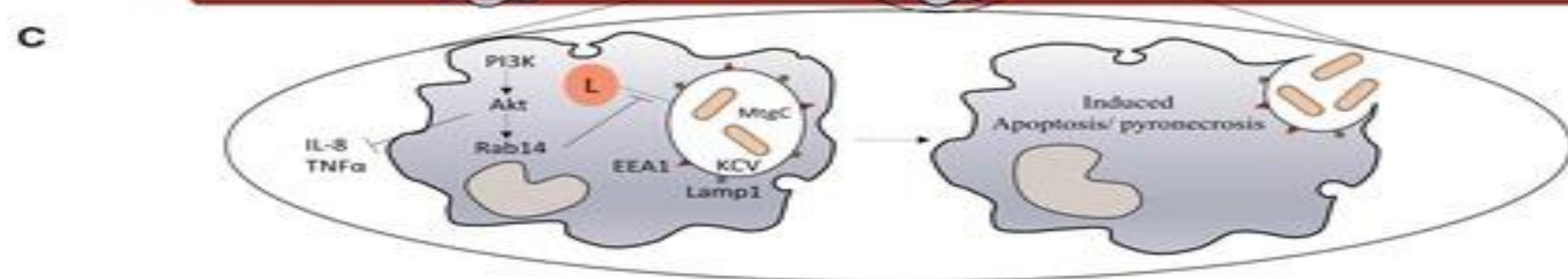
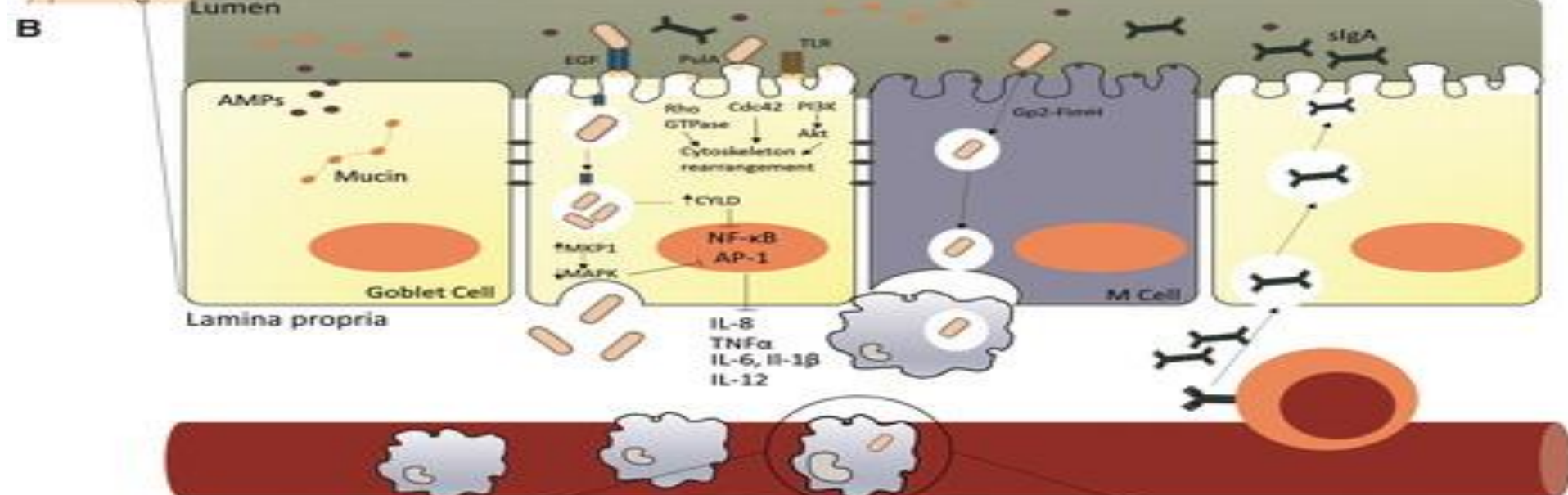
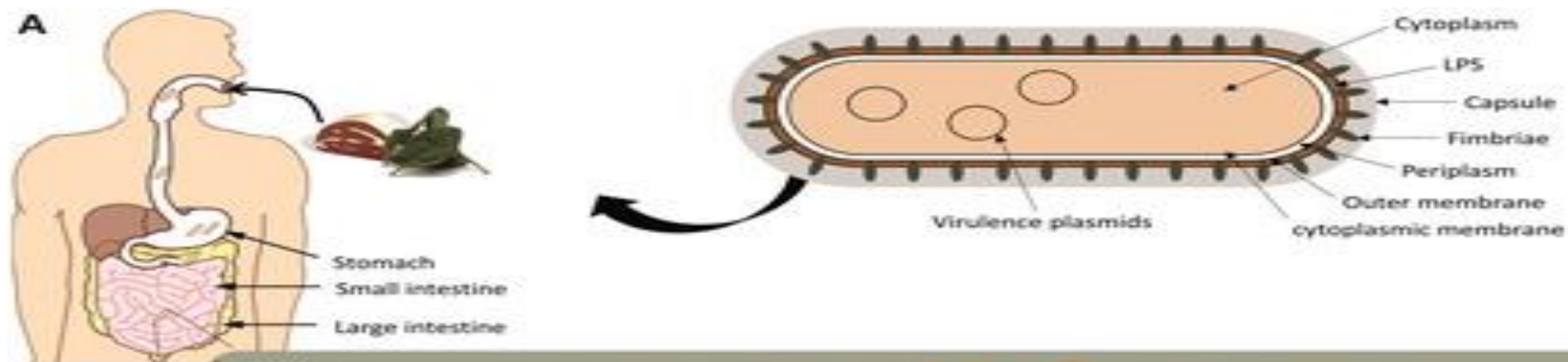


## String test

- A colony that stretches more than 5 mm using a standard inoculation loop tests positive for hypermucoviscosity.



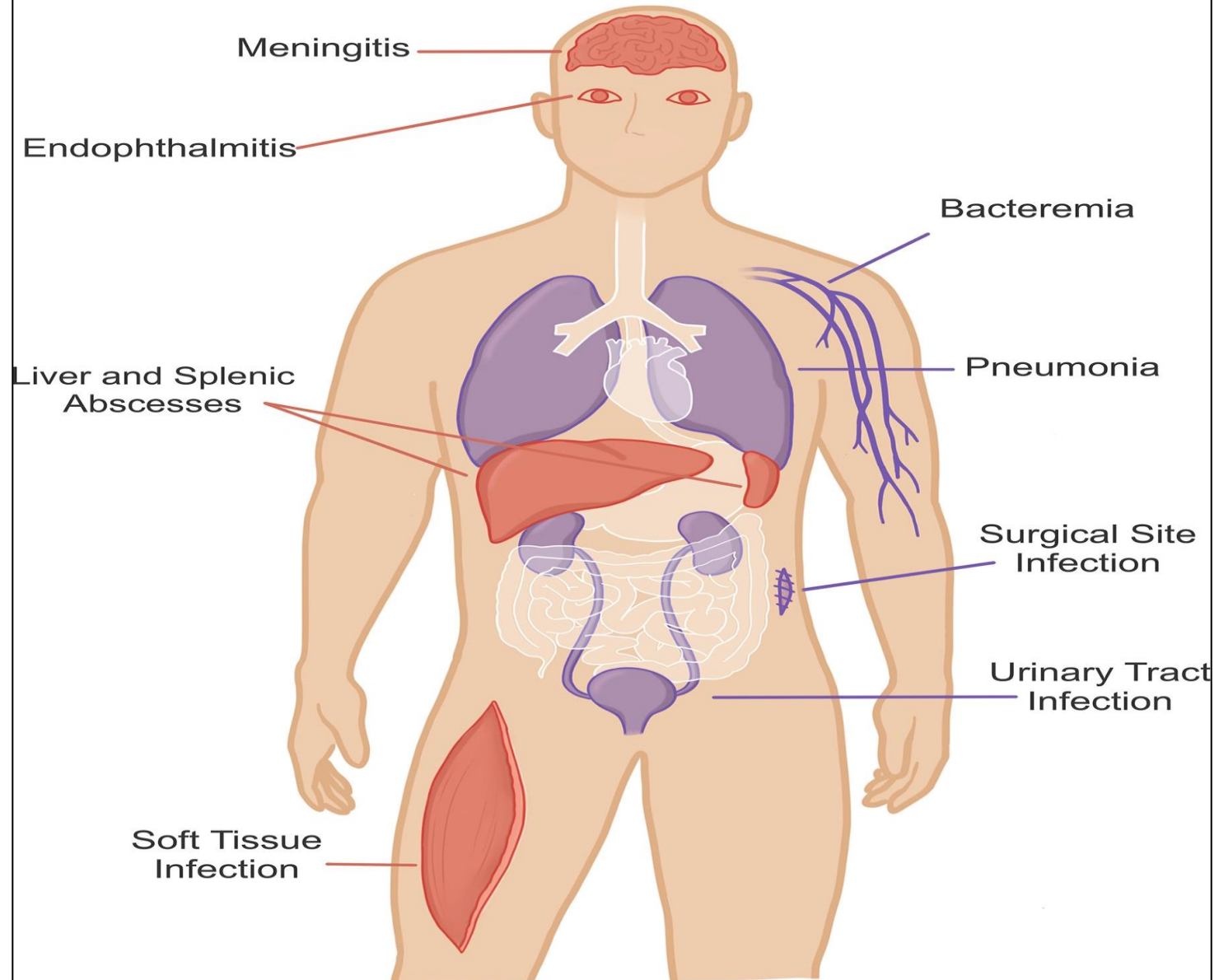
Mucoid colony of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* . When colonies were touched with a loop and the loop lifted vertically from the surface of the agar plate, mucoid isolates adhered to the loop as it was lifted from the plate .





## Hypervirulent Kp

## Classical and Hypervirulent Kp





## Diseases Caused by Klebsiella :

- 1) urinary tract infections
- 2) pneumonia
- 3) Sepsicaemia
- 4) nosocomial infections
- 5) soft tissue infections.



# ***K.rhinoscleromatis***





# Identification of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*

Hanging Drop preparation

Non motile

Large mucoid pink colonies

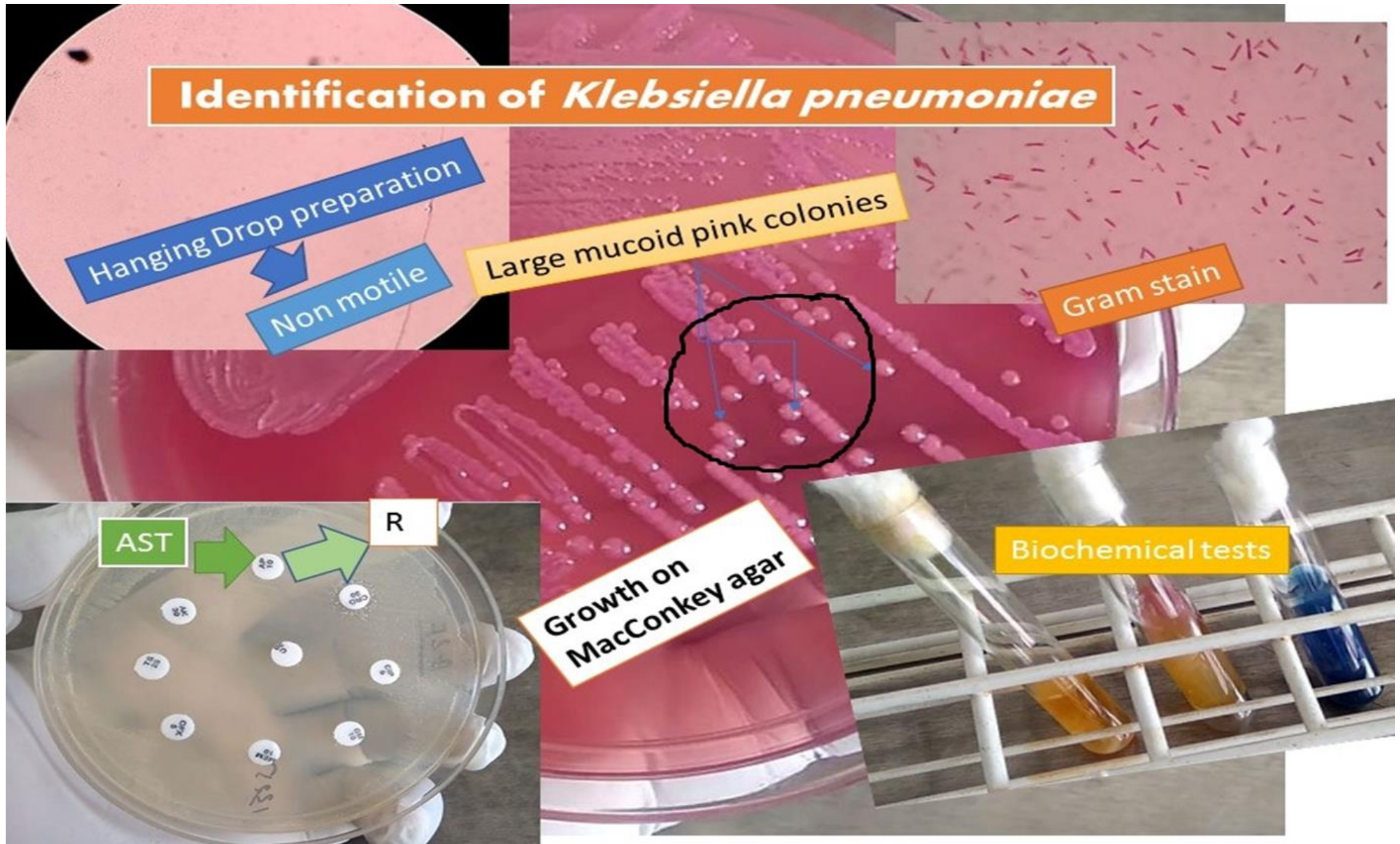
Gram stain

AST

R

Growth on MacConkey agar

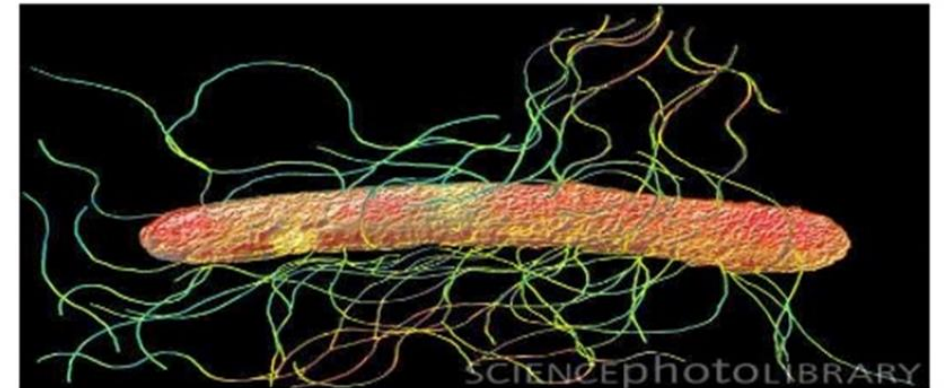
Biochemical tests



# *PROTEUS* - Taxonomy

- (Domain): Bacteria
- (Kingdom): Proteobacteria
- (Class): Gammaproteobacteria
- (Order): Enterobacteriales
- (Family): Enterobacteriaceae
- (Genus): *Proteus*
- (Species): *P.vulgaris*, *P.mirabilis*

*Proteus* spp.





## General characteristic:

Gram negative rods, facultative anaerobics.

Motile they have peritrichous flagella

Non capsulated

Non spore forming

*Proteus sp.* are most commonly found in the human intestinal tract as part of normal human intestinal flora.

Non-lactose fermenting

## Gram stain

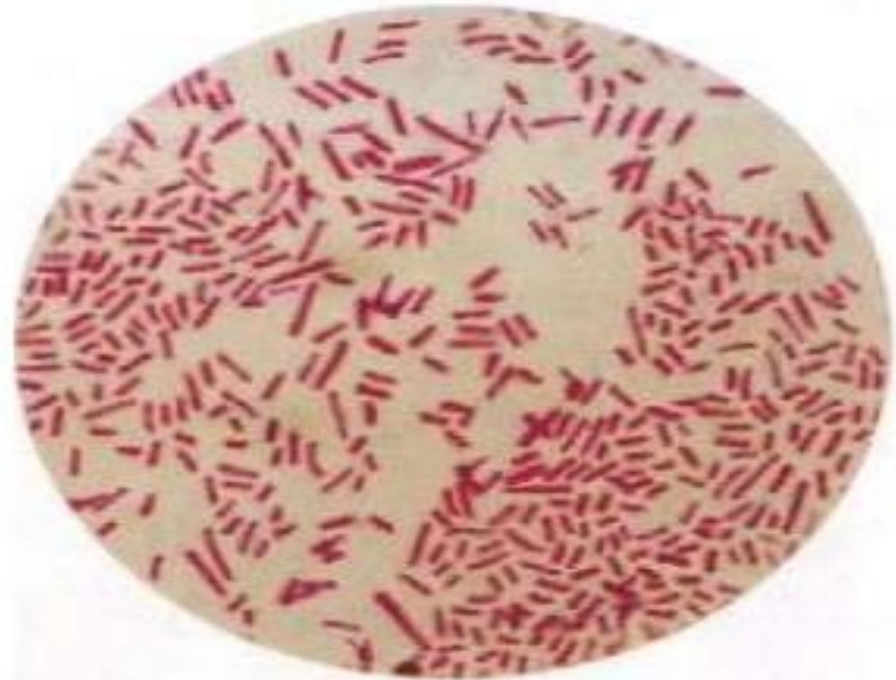
- Gram-negative rods



# Morphology of proteus spp

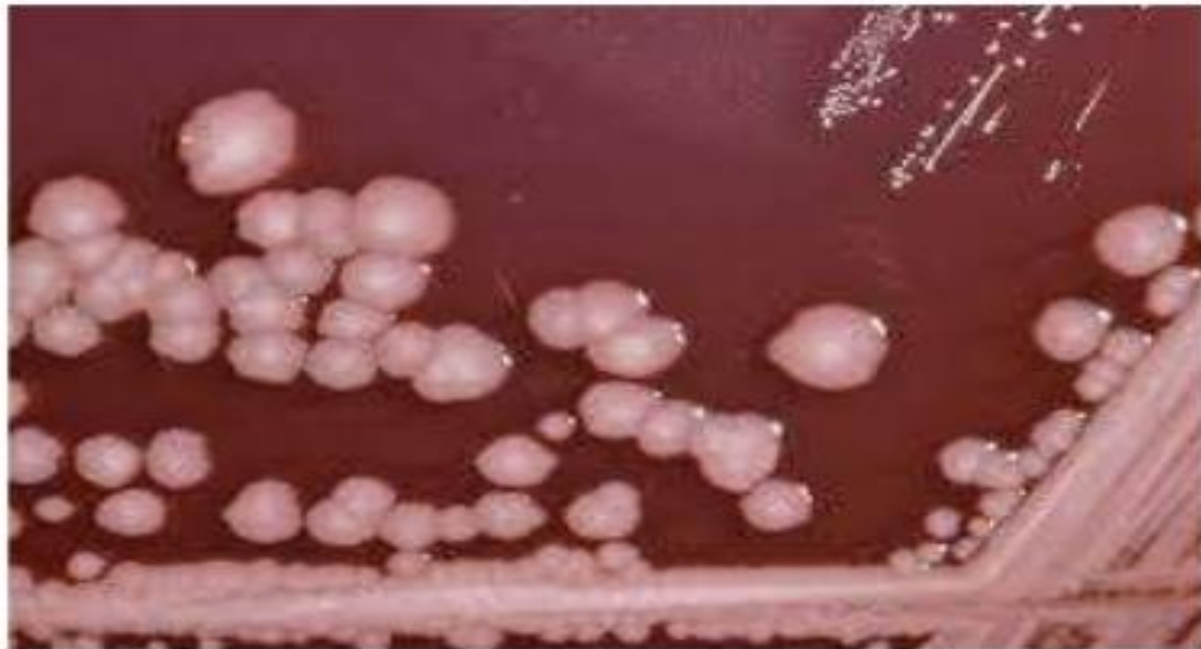
Microscopical morphology

Gram **negative** bacilli, motile has flagella



## Colony morphology:

Large ,circular,gray ,smooth colonies





The main species of medical importance are:

*P. mirabilis*

*P. vulgaris*

*Proteus spp.* are opportunist pathogens and may cause many types of infection.

### **P. mirabilis**

causes 90% of all *Proteus* infections in humans.

#### **Clinical features:**

- Urinary tract infection
- Septicemia
- Abdominal and wound infection
- Secondary invader of ulcer, burn and chronic discharging ear.

## Diagnosis method of proteus spp.

### Specimens:

Urine, pus and ear

### Gram stain:

Rod shaped gram negative



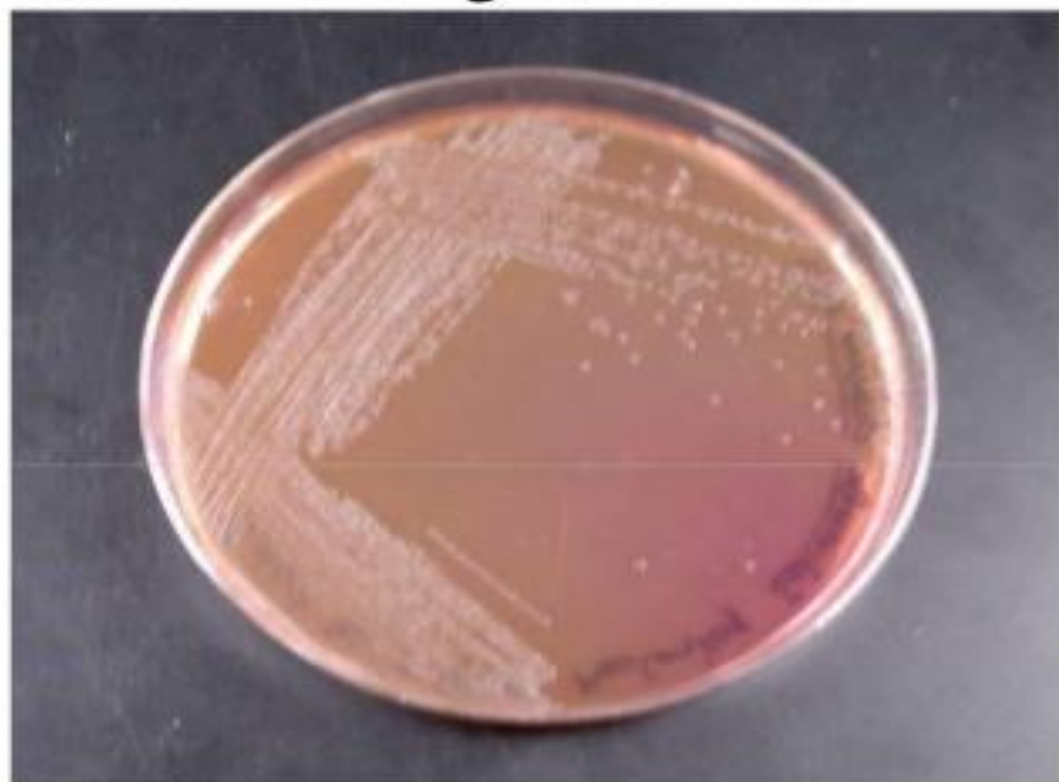
## Culture:

**Blood agar:** Swarming effect over blood agar plate as a consequence of the organisms active motility.





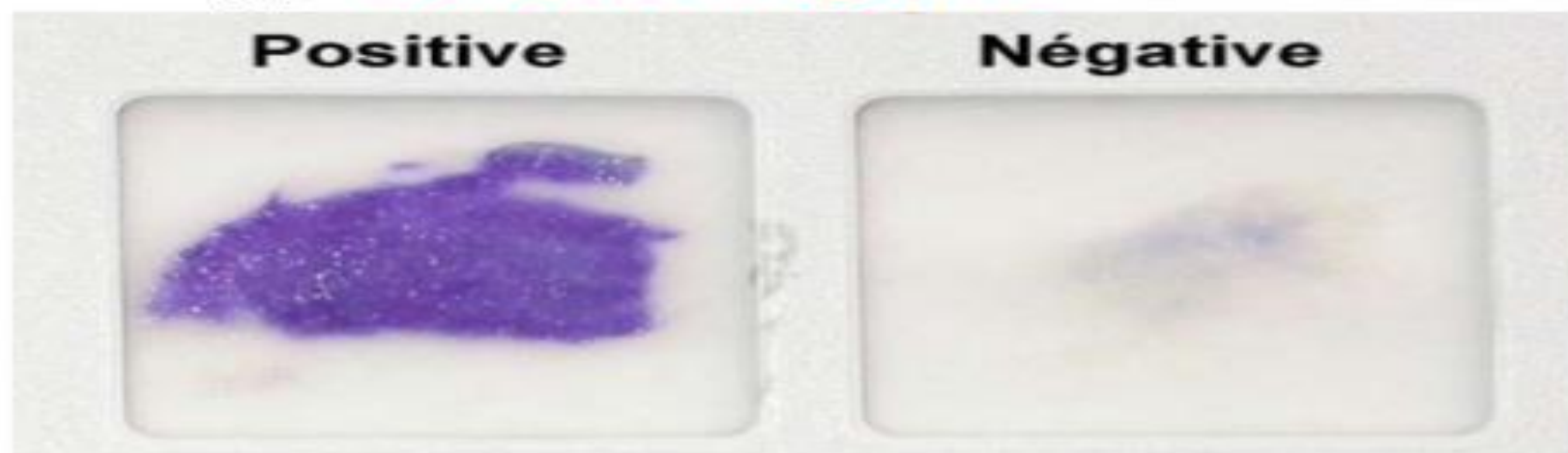
**Macconkey agar:** Cultures give out an odour described as fishy, Non- lactose fermenting colonies .



## Oxidase test:

The oxidase test is used to determine if a bacterium produces certain cytochrome c oxidases. The reagent turns **dark blue** when oxidized (oxidase positive). The reagent is colorless when reduced (oxidase-negative)

*Proteus spp.* **Oxidase negative**



# IMViC test

## 1-indole test:

is used to determine the ability of bacteria to convert tryptophan into indole.

*P. mirabilis* can be differentiated from *p.vulgaris* by indole test.

*P. mirabilis* → **negative**

*P. vulgaris* → **positive**



## Methyl red test:

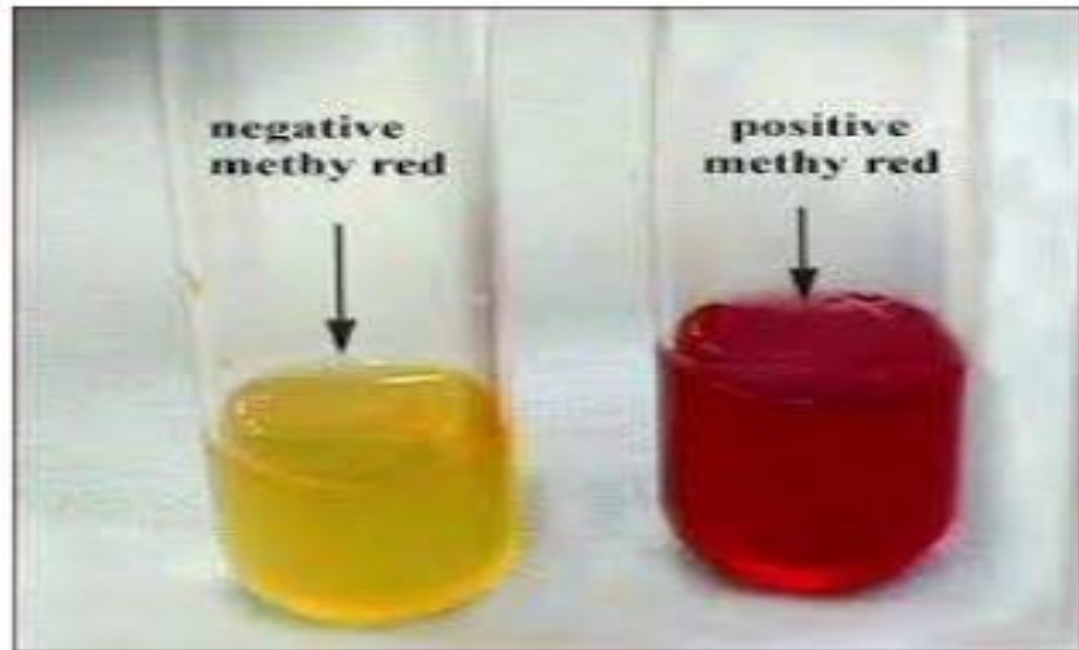
. The methyl red test is used to identify bacteria to produce pyruvic acid from glucose metabolism.

*Proteus vulgaris*:

Methyl red: **positive**

*Proteus mirabilis*:

Methyl red: **positive**



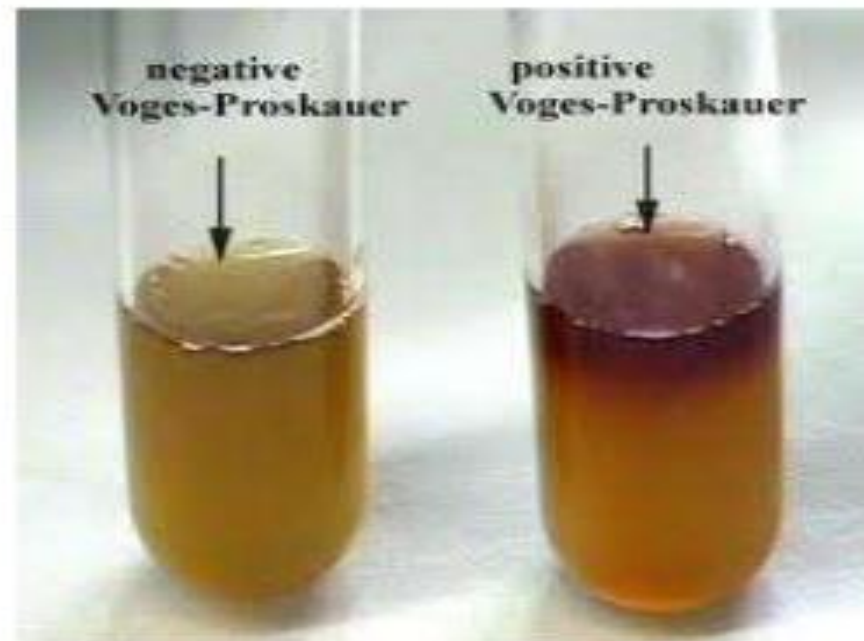


## Voges–Proskauer:

is a test used to detect acetoin in •  
a bacterial broth culture. A red-brown color  
indicates a positive result, while a yellow-  
brown color indicates a negative result.

*p. Vulgaris* : **Negative**

*p. mirabilis*: **negative**

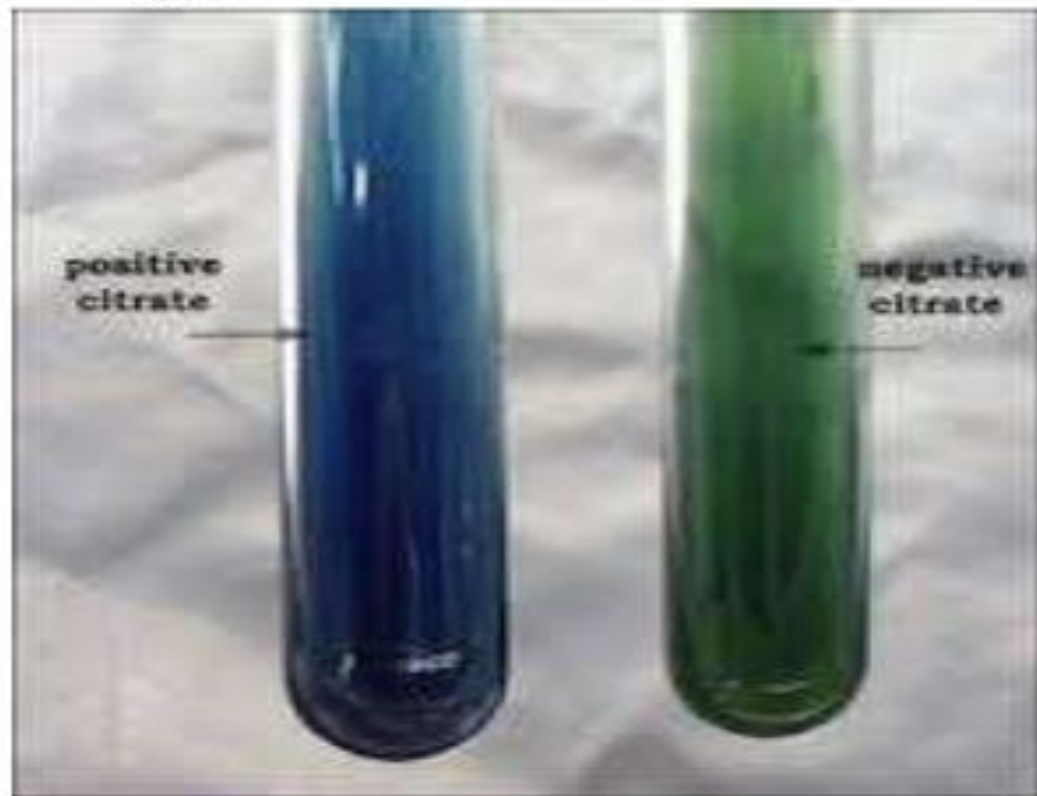


## Citrate test:

Ability of an organism to use citrate as the sole source of carbon and energy.

*p.Vulgaris*: **Negative**

*p.mirabilis*: **positive**



## TSI test Triple Sugar Iron test

This test is used to determine the ability of bacteria to ferment **sugars** and to produce **hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S)** or other **gases**

*Proteus spp.*

(red/red with H<sub>2</sub>S production)

(black)



# Motility test

used to determine whether an organism is equipped with flagella and thus capable of swimming away from a stab mark.

Left tube •  
shows positive motility test  
for *Proteus spp.*

Right tube •  
negative for *S.aureus*

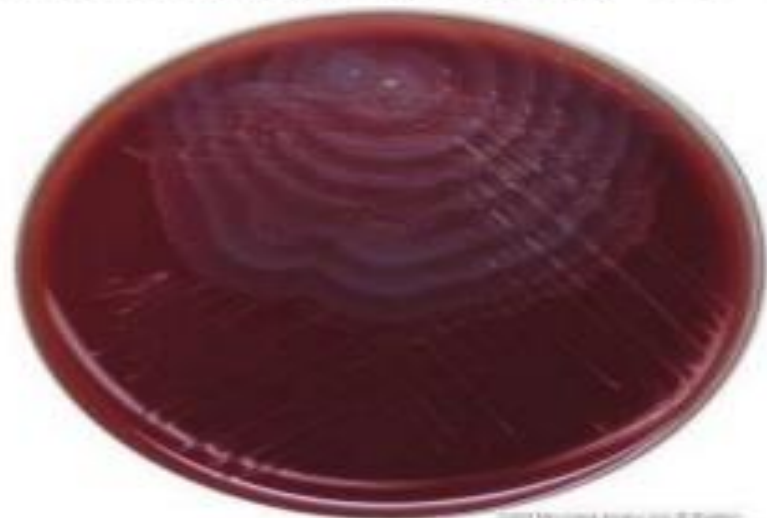




# Swarming phenomenon

**swarming** is described as the formation of concentric zones of bacterial growth, able to cover the whole surface of solid culture medium.

*P.mirabilis* & *P.vulgaris* are known for their swarming ability over (sheep blood agar)





**Swarming growth on blood agar**



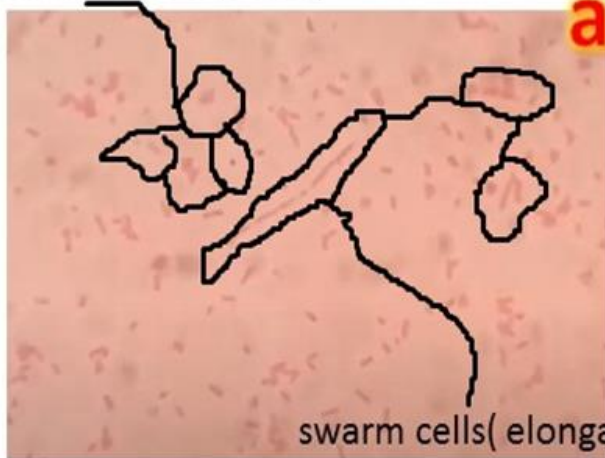
MacConkey agar: Non-lactose fermenting (NLF) colonies and swarming prevented due to bile salt present in the medium.



Blue grey translucent colonies on CLED agar

## Proteus: Growth on Various media, Gram Stain and Biochemical Reactions

swimmer cells (short)



swarm cells (elongated)

TSI Test:  
Red slope/Yellow butt  
H<sub>2</sub>S : Positive  
No gas formation

MIU Test:  
Motile  
Indole Negative  
Urease positive

**Citrate Utilization Test  
Positive**

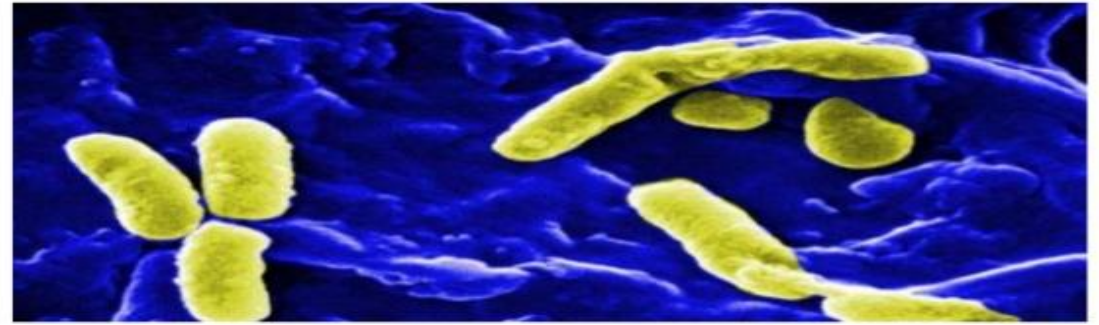




# *Pseudomonas* – Taxonomy

- (Kingdom): Bacteria
- (Class): Gammaproteobacteria
- (Order): Pseudomonadales
- (Family): Pseudomonadaceae
- (Genus): **Pseudomonas**
- (Species): *P.aeruginosa*,  
*P.fluorescens*,  
*P.putida*, *P.cepacia*, *P.stutzeri*,  
*P.maltophilia*, *P.putrefaciens*.

## Pseudomonas



- Medically important *Pseudomonas*:

***P. aeruginosa.***

- present in small numbers in the normal intestine flora and on the skin.
- Commonly present in moist environments in hospitals.
- It is primarily a nosocomial pathogen.



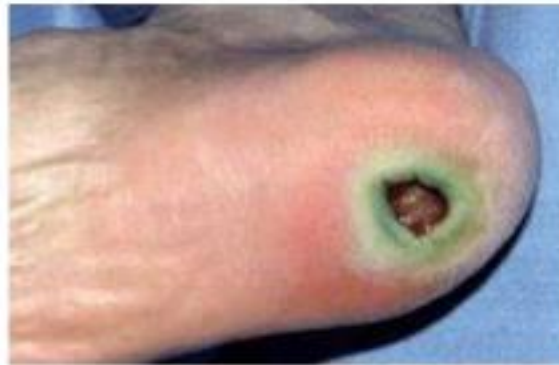
## General character

- Gram-negative rods.
- Motile by polar flagella.
- aerobics.
- Grow well at 42°C.
- Non-lactose fermenting



## Pigment production

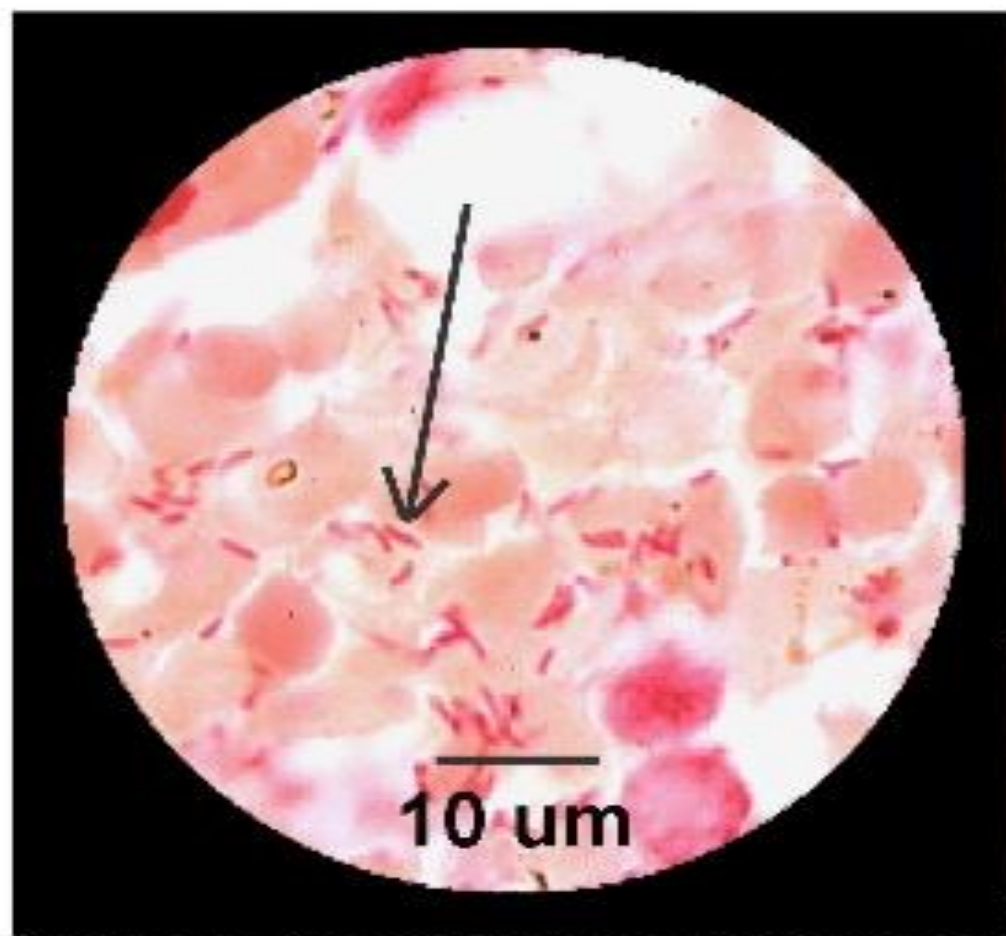
- can produce pigments, such as:
- **Pyocyanine** (blue-green)
- **Pyoverdine** (fluorescent yellow- greenish pigment)
- **Pyorubrin** (red)
- **Pyomelanin** (brown)



# Microscopy

## -Gram stain

Gram negative rod  
undistinguished from  
enerobacteriaceae.



## Culture character

- Form smooth and round colonies.
- **Fluorescent greenish colour.**
- production of fruity odor (grape-like) .
- Inability to ferment lactose.



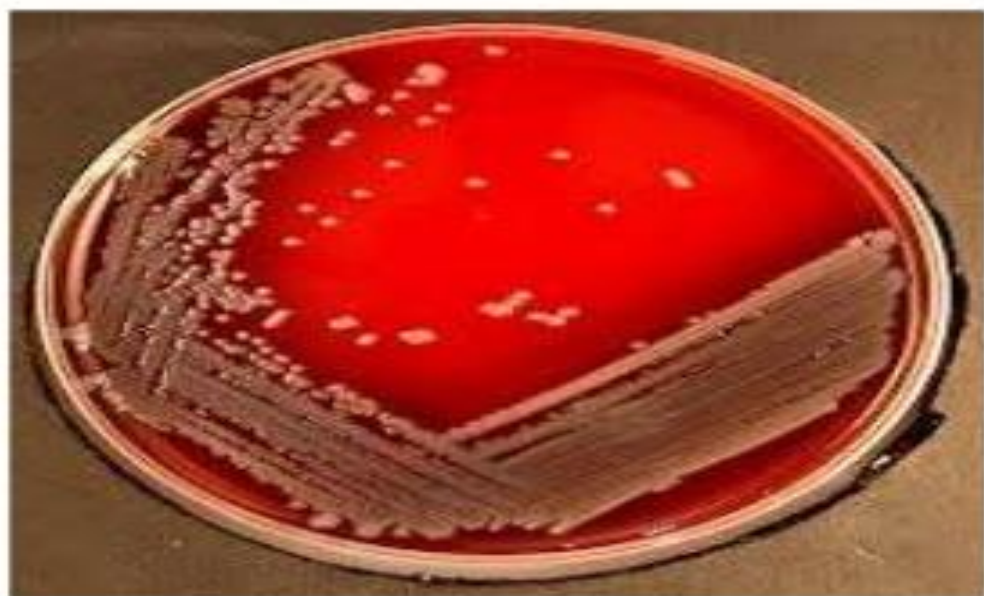
## On nutrient agar

- Colonies are smooth, large, translucent
- Greenish blue diffusible pigment



## On blood agar

- Grayish colonies
- Many are haemolytic (beta hemolysis).



This picture shows *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (on the right) and *Shigella dysenteriae* (on the left) in blood agar.

## On MacConkey agar

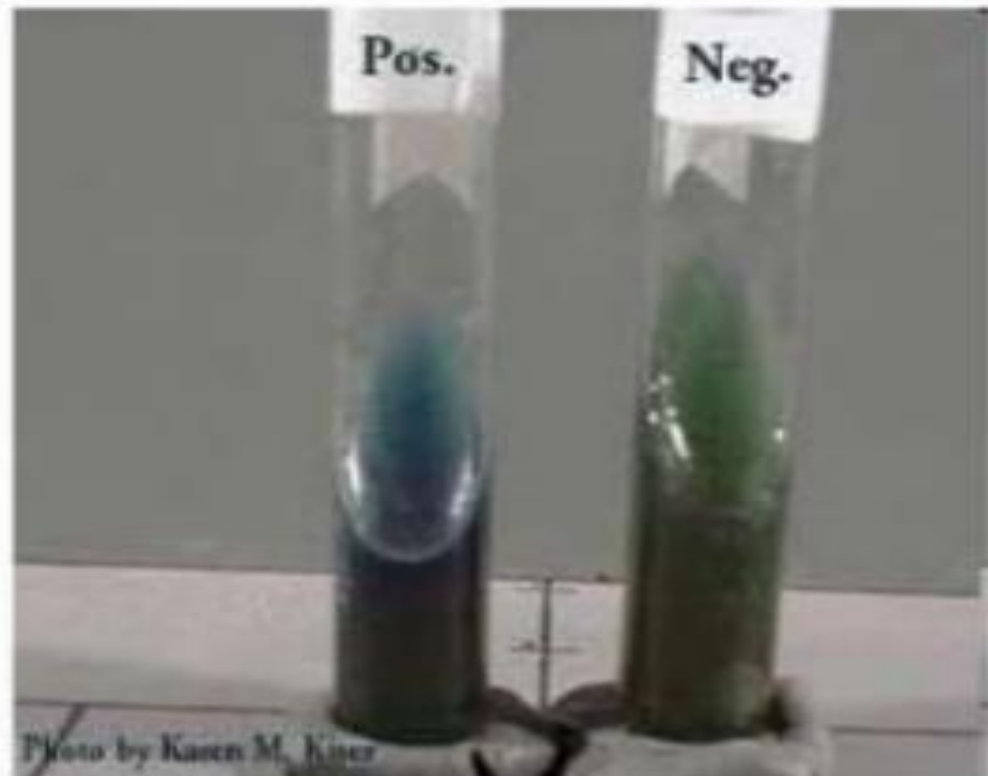
- Non-lactose fermenting (colourless colonies)





# Biochemical Tests

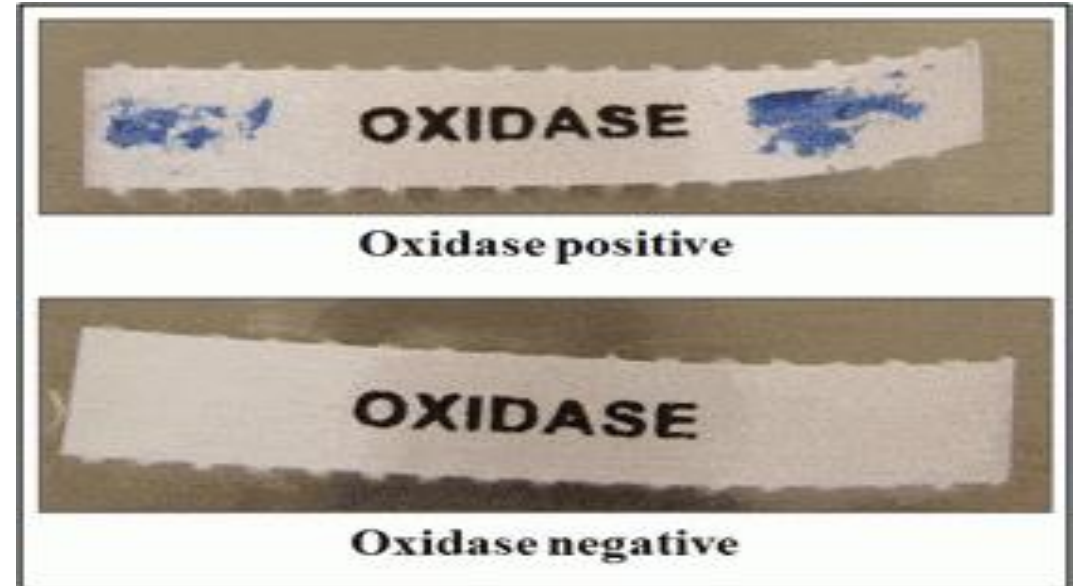
- Indole test-negative
- Methyl red test-negative
- Vp test-negative
- Citrate test-positive
- Urease test-negative





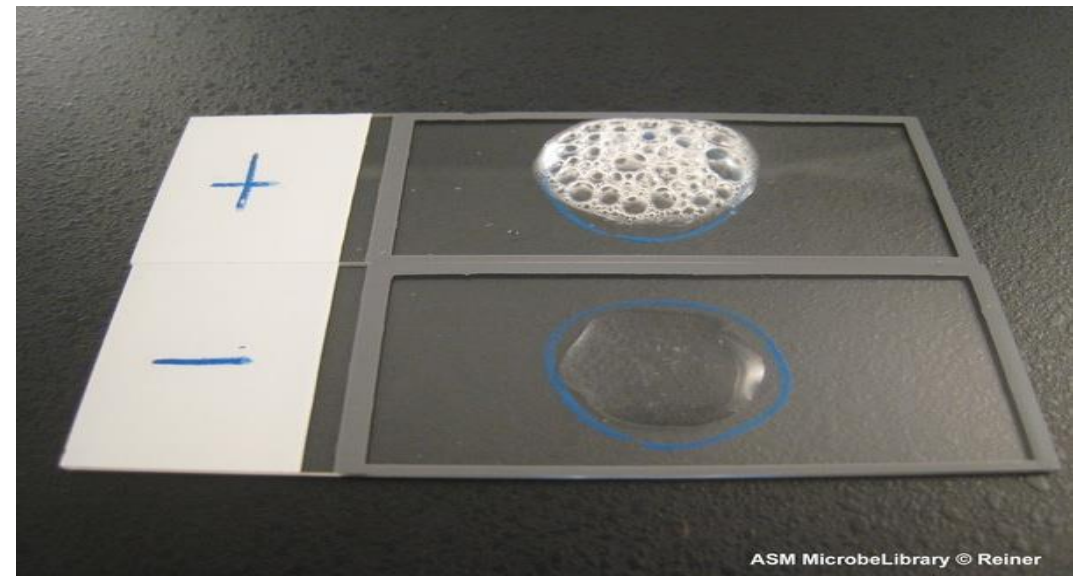
### Oxidase test

- Oxidase positive

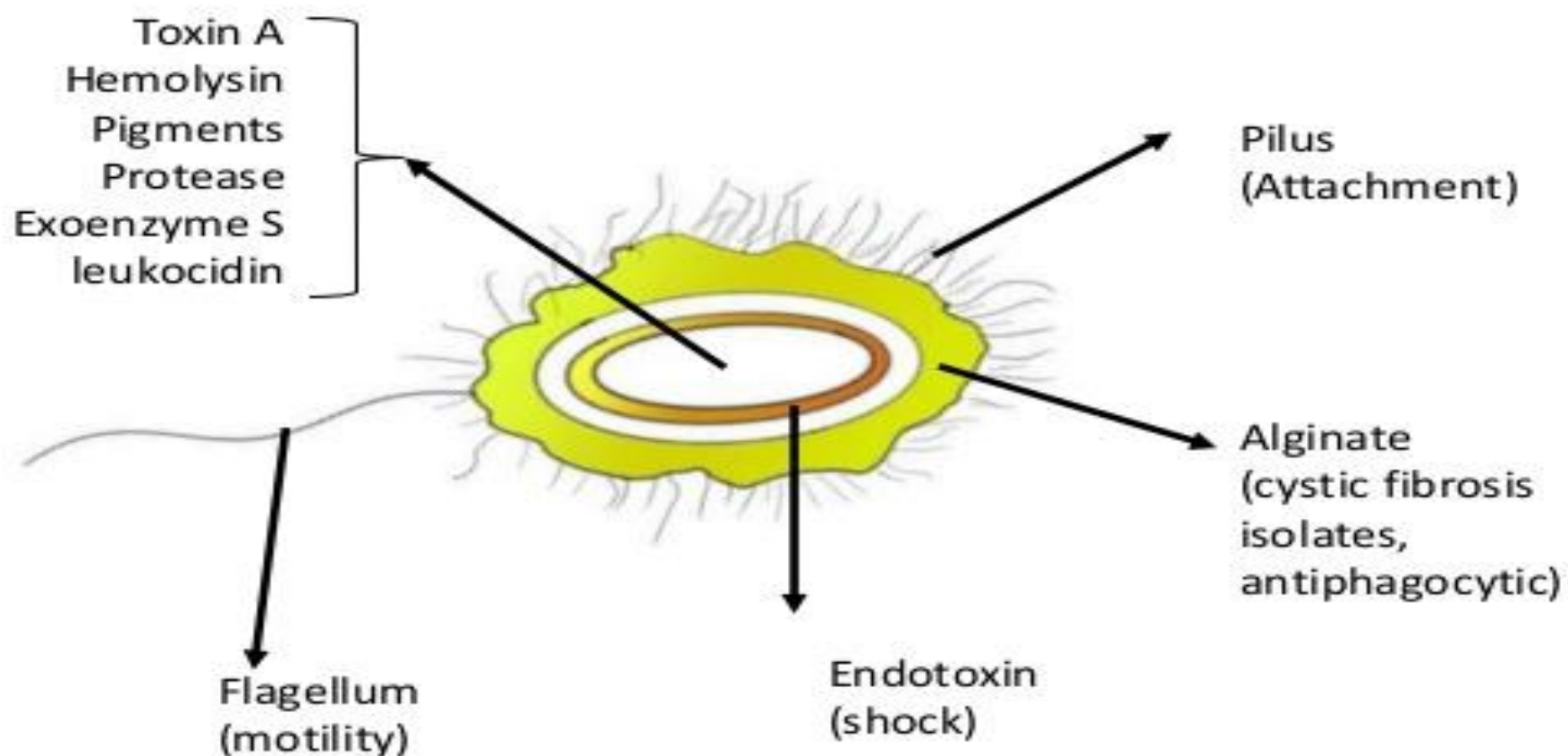


### Catalase test

- Catalase positive



# *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*



Structure and pathogenic mechanisms of *P aeruginosa*.

# Pathogenesis

- *P. aeruginosa* can produce a lot of antigens some of them are
  1. Endotoxin
  2. Hemolysin
  3. Leukocidin
  4. Pigments: fluorescein, pyococyanin
  5. Proteases: elastase
  6. Toxin A
  7. Exoenzyme S
  8. Phospholipase c
- Almost all strains of ***P aeruginosa* are hemolytic** on blood agar plates
- **Hemolysin** produced is **toxic to alveolar macrophages** and play a role in pulmonary infections
- This **leukocidin** (also called cytotoxin) damages lymphocyte

# Pathogenesis

- *P. aeruginosa* can produce a lot of antigens some of them are
  1. Endotoxin
  2. Hemolysin
  3. Leukocidin
  4. Pigments: fluorescein, pyocyanin
  5. Proteases: elastase
  6. Toxin A
  7. Exoenzyme S
  8. Phospholipase c
- **extracellular polysaccharide** impede phagocytosis and impair diffusion of antibiotics.
- **Proteases** induce formation of hemorrhagic lesions, which become necrotic within 24 hours. It contribute to the tissue destruction that accompanies *P aeruginosa* **eye or lung infections** and may aid bacteria in tissue invasion



# Pathogenesis

## Toxin A

- **most toxic known extracellular protein** of *P aeruginosa*
- Toxicity has been attributed to its ability to **inhibit protein synthesis**
- by catalyzing the transfer of the **ADP-ribosyl** moiety of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (**NAD**) onto **elongation factor 2 (EF-2)**. The resultant ADP-ribosyl-EF-2 complex is inactive in protein synthesis
- most patients surviving *P aeruginosa* sepsis have **elevated levels of antitoxin A antibody**
- toxin A may be a **major virulence factor** of *P aeruginosa*
- **toxin A-deficient mutants are less virulent**

# Clinical Manifestations

- *P. aeruginosa* causes various infections

1. **Infections on skin** and skeletal tissues, Burn wounds, Surgical wounds
2. **Respiratory tract:** Pneumonia and chronic infection in cystic fibrosis patients

3. **CNS infections**
4. **Endocarditis**
5. **UTI**
6. **Bacteremia**

- most cystic fibrosis patients ultimately die of localized *P. aeruginosa* infections
- **Necrotizing *P. aeruginosa* pneumonia** may occur in other patients following the use of contaminated respirators

# Clinical Manifestations

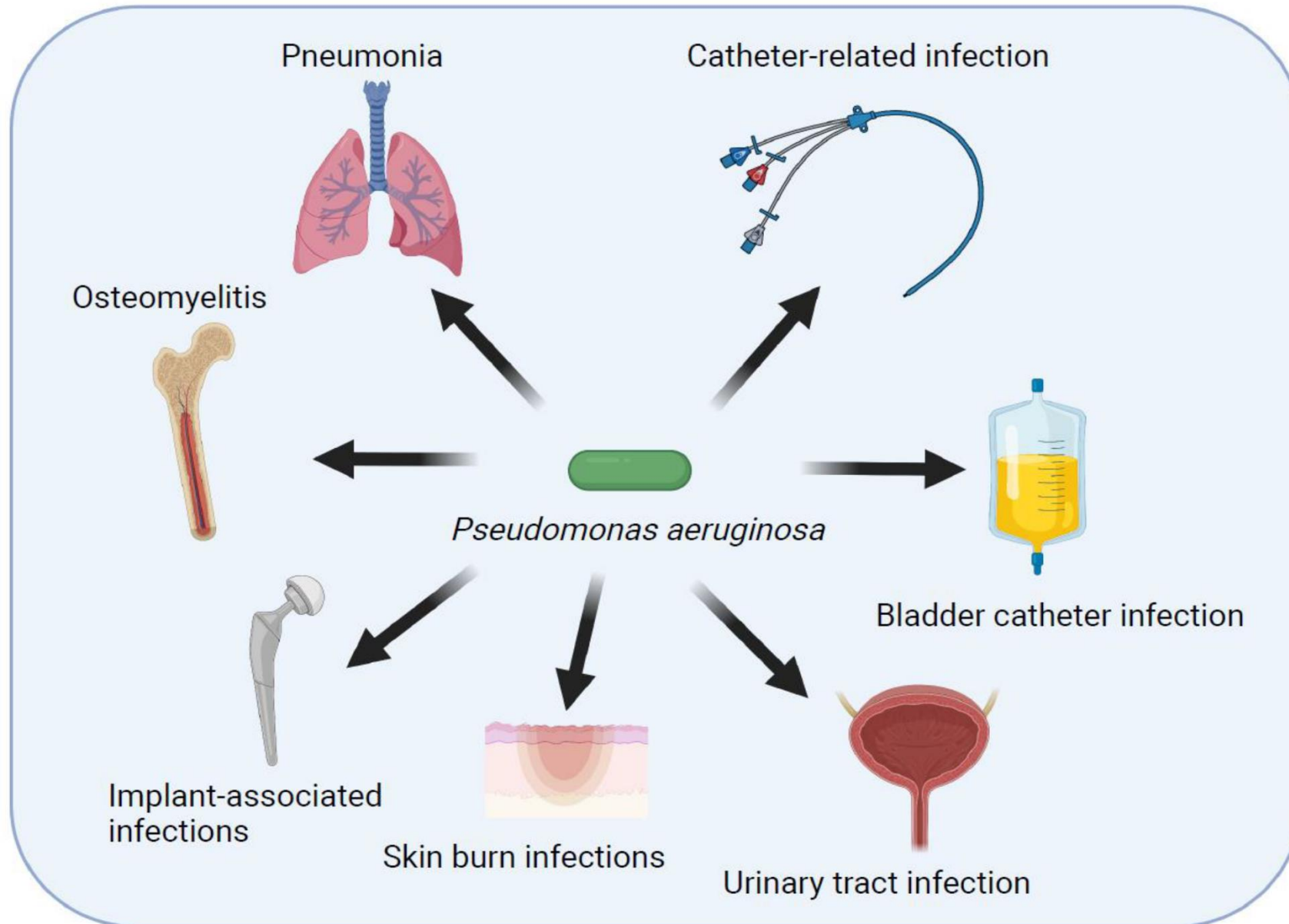
- Cause severe **corneal infections** following eye surgery or injury
- It is found in pure culture, especially in children with **middle ear infections**
- It occasionally causes **meningitis** following lumbar puncture and **endocarditis** following cardiac surgery
- It has been associated with some **diarrheal disease episodes**

## ***Nosocomial infection*** (*healthcare-associated infections (HAI)*)

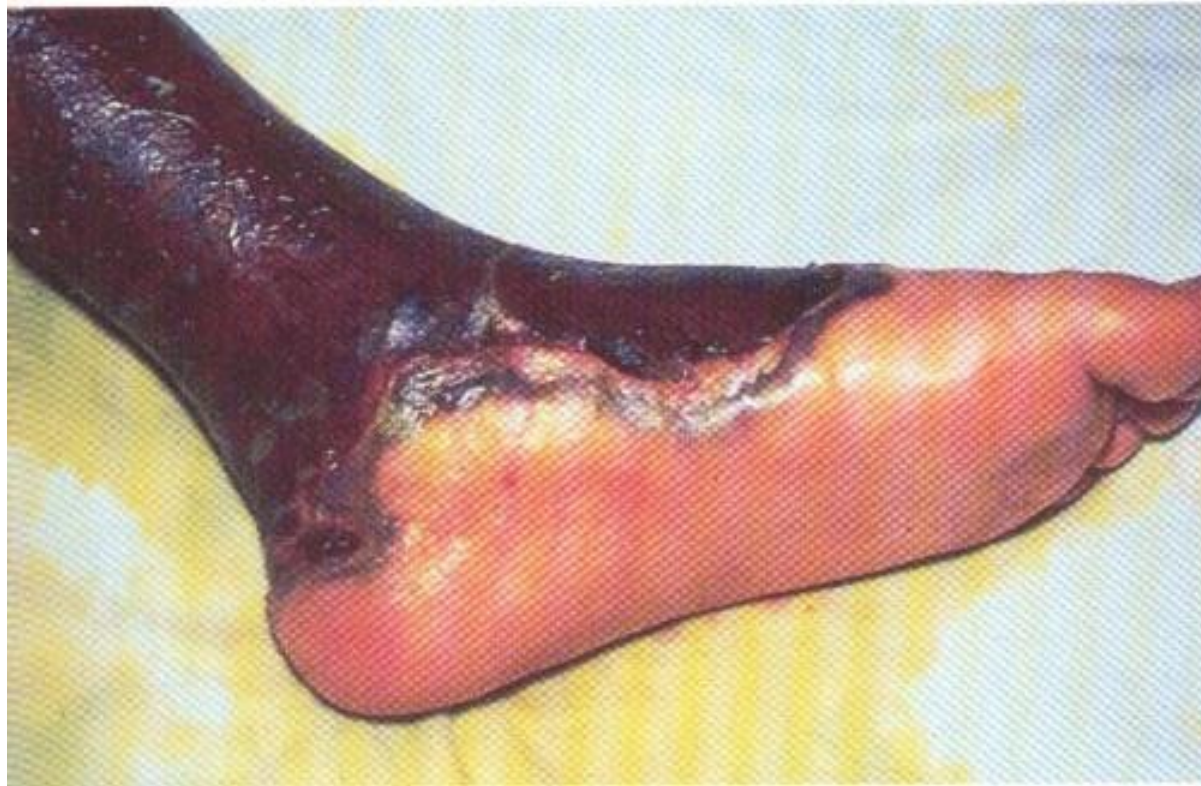
- *P.aeruginosa* is the second most common etiological agent of nosocomial infections. It is considered the main causative agent of burn wound infections. It is the third most common etiological factor in hospital-acquired pneumonias.
- Invasive manipulations, instruments used in intensive care units, patients with immunodeficiency, hands of hospital workers, surgical and medical waste, antiseptic solutions, cleaning solutions of contact lenses play an important role in the epidemiology of this microorganism.



# *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*



*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* - wound infection



*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* («ecthyma gangrenosa»)



# Laboratory diagnosis

## Specimen:

- Wound discharge
- sputum
- Blood
- Urine
- CSF





# Diagnosis

- isolation and laboratory identification
- identified on the basis of its **Gram morphology**, **inability to ferment lactose**, a **positive oxidase reaction**, its **fruity odor**, and its **ability to grow at 4 2° C**
- **Fluorescence under ultraviolet radiation** helps in early identification of *P aeruginosa* colonies and also is useful in suggesting its presence in wounds



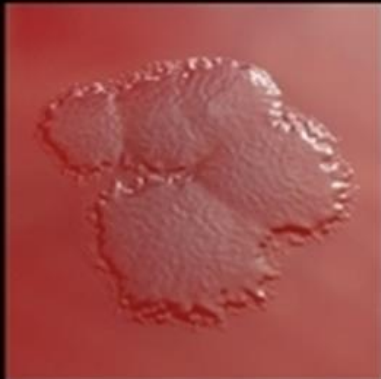
Tryptic soy agar



Blood agar

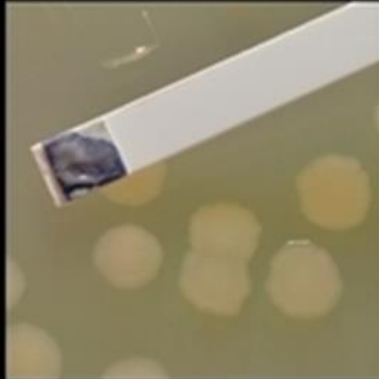


Gram-negative rods

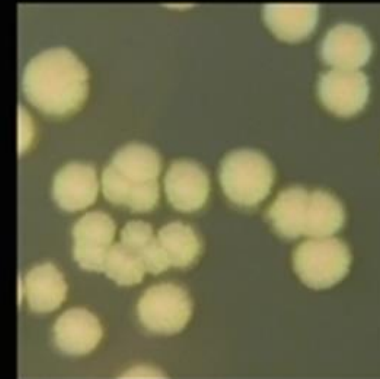
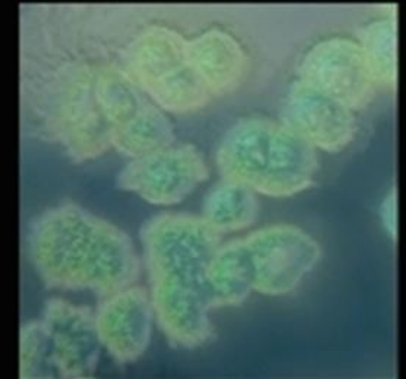
*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Blood agar

Hans N.



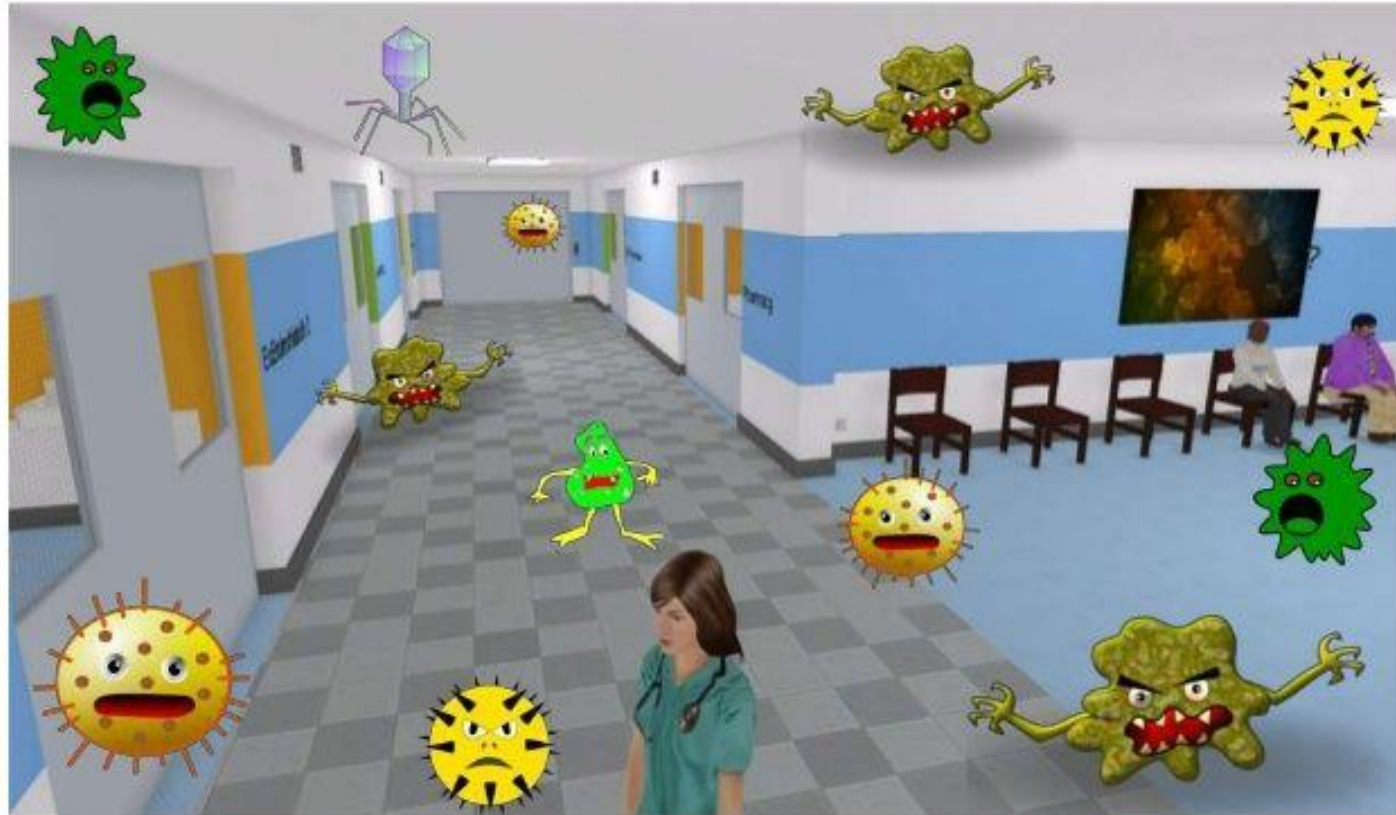
Positive oxidase test

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*  
and *S.aureus* on TSA*P.aeruginosa* on TSA

Cetrimide agar

# Acinetobacter

## Nosocomial Infections



# Acinetobacter

## Morphological characteristics:

- Acinetobacter are **Gram negative**, cocci. In smears made from pathological materials, as well as from colonies developing in solid nutrient media, it is located as a diplococci and resembles neisseria. Sometimes they can be thick, short, polymorphous, 1.5-2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  long, in the shape of a rod. In smears, they are found in mixed states, sometimes in the form of short chains. They are non-motile, they do not form spores. They have piles. They can form a capsule.



# Acinetobacter

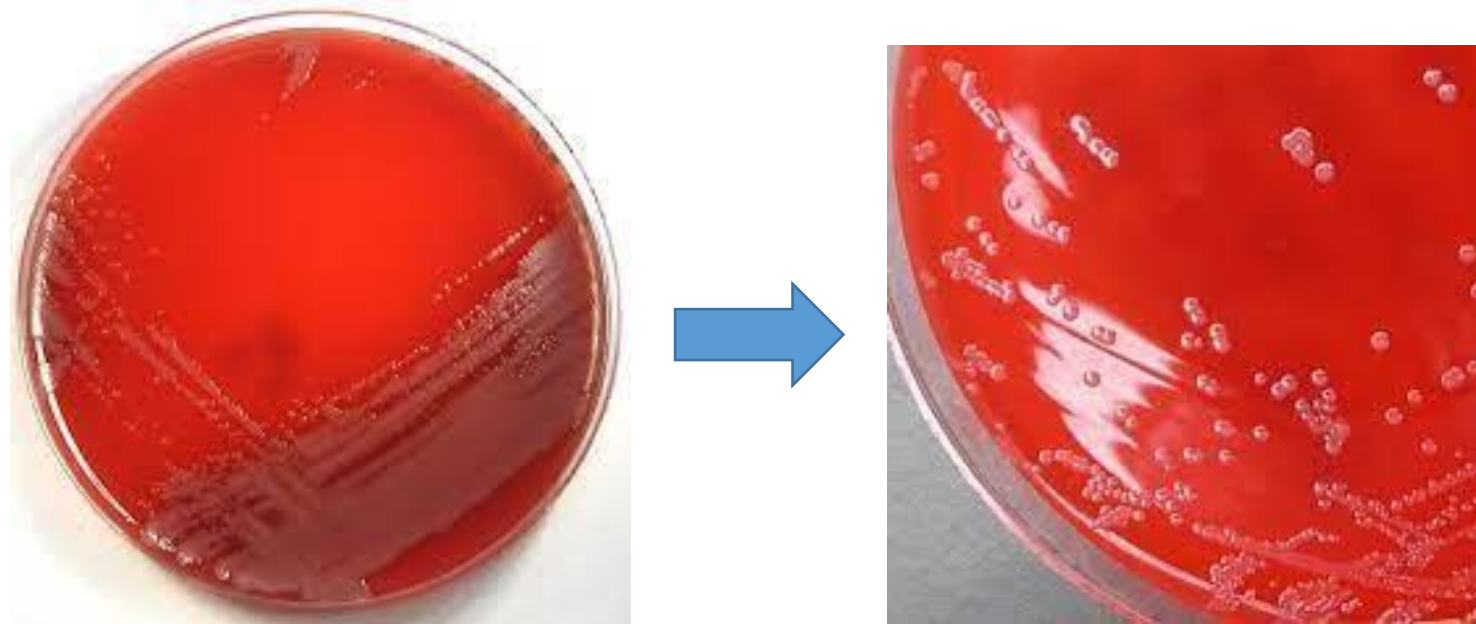
(Gram stain, x100)



# Acinetobacter

cultural characteristics:

- They are obligate aerobes. They grow in normal nutrient media with neutral pH, at 30-35°C. Small, glistening colonies on solid nutrient media, sometimes forming a zone of alpha-hemolysis on blood agar.



*Acinetobacter* spp. (Blood agar)

# Acinetobacter

## biochemical properties:

- Biochemical activity is weak.
- It does not break down polysaccharides, some species ferment monosaccharides with acid formation, which allows them to be separated into species. They do not form indole and hydrogen sulfide.

# Acinetobacter

- Acinetobacter is widespread in the environment - soil and water. They are included in the normal human microflora, they are found as commensals in the skin of healthy people, in the mucous membrane of the nasopharynx. *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *A.johnsonii* species cause nosocomial infections. Among the causative agents of nosocomial infections, acinetobacter, which ranks second after pseudomonads, causes sepsis, peritonitis, endocarditis, wound and burn infections, especially in children and middle-aged people. It is found in the mucous membranes of the urogenital and respiratory tracts, in lesions of the skin surface. Infections are mainly observed in immunocompromised individuals.



## The risk group includes:

- Acinetobacter infections usually occur in people in health care settings. People most at risk include patients in hospitals, especially:
- those in breathing apparatus (ventilators).
- those with a catheter
- those with open wounds from surgery
- those in intensive care units
- long hospital stays
- people with weakened immunity, chronic lung disease or diabetes

# Acinetobacter

## microbiological diagnostics

- Materials such as blood, pus, and wound contents are used for examination.
- Identification of the culture is carried out based on its biochemical properties.

Acinetobacter obtained in meningitis and sepsis should be differentiated from *N.meningitidis* and acinetobacter obtained from female genitalia should be distinguished from *N.gonorrhoeae*. Unlike *Neisseria*, *Acinetobacter* are oxidase negative.

# Acinetobacter treatment

- As Acinetobacter isolates are quite resistant to antibiotics, treatment is carried out taking into account the sensitivity to antibiotics. Acinetobacter are usually sensitive to gentamicin, amikacin, tobramycin, III generation cephalosporins.
- Carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter is usually multidrug resistant.