



# Orientation to Gram Negative Bacteria of Medical Importance

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# **Gram-negative diplococci**

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







## **Gram-negative coccobacilli**

#### Haemophilus: Blood –Loving Bacilli

- <u>Fastidious</u>: 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.
- *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





### **Bordetella**

- 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





## Brucella

- Causes Brucellosis in man 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**



# **Gram-negative bacilli**

- Enterobacteriaceae
- Pseudomonas

### Enterobacteriaceae

- Facultative anaerobe.
- ≻They all ferment glucose.
- ≻They are oxidase negative.

### Pseudomonas

- Strict aerobe
- >Don't ferment carbohydrate.
- ≻Oxidase positive.

# Shigella

- *Shigella* a highly infectious Bacteria.
- One of the leading causes of diarrhea and bacillary dysentery.
- Most individuals are infected with *Shigella* when they ingest food or water contaminated with human fecal material (faeco-oral).
- Outbreaks of *Shigella* infection are common in places where sanitation is poor.
- Shigella can survive up to 30 days in milk, eggs, cheese

## **Pseudomonads**

- Gram-negative, aerobic bacilli.
- Problematic in hospitals because they can be found in numerous locations.
- Opportunistic pathogens.
- Resistant to many antibiotics







# Vibrio

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





# 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.
- 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.









- The causative organism for gonorrhea?
- Blood-loving bacillus that causes meningitis?
- The causative organism for whooping cough??
- The common organism causing bacillary dysentery??
- The causative organism for rice water diarrhea??
- A risk for gastric ulcer ??
- Turn the nutrient agar to greenish colour??

