

AVBS3001 – Bacteriology and Mycology

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Staphylococcus

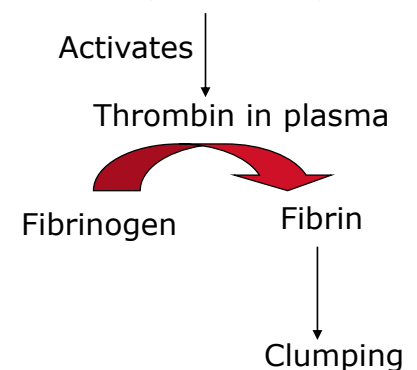
Laboratory Features

- Family Staphylococcaceae
- Produce catalase (breaking down hydrogen peroxide to H₂O and O₂)
 - $2\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_2$
- Pathogen of animals and man
- Commensals (depends on the animal breed, ages, etc) @skin and mucous membranes, including:
 - Transient contaminants
 - Short-term residents
 - Long-term colonizers
- Predisposing factors
 - Parasitic opportunism
- Gram + cocci
- Clusters ("staphyle" – bunch of grapes)
- Facultative anaerobes (= an organism that makes ATP by aerobic respiration if oxygen is present, but is capable of switching to fermentation or **anaerobic** respiration if oxygen is absent)
- Catalase +
- Fermentative (able to utilise the env)
- Mannitol salt agar
 - Selective media
 - High NaCl levels
 - Fermentation of mannitol
- Resistant to lysozyme
 - O-acetylation of muramic acid residue
- Plasmids
- Antimicrobial susceptibility
 - Bacteriophage (associated with genetic transfer)

Classification – with coagulase test

- Coagulase +ve
 - Results: clumping (producing coagulase), including:
 - S. aureus
 - S. intermedius
 - S. hyicus (mostly)
 - Others
- Tube VS slide coagulase test:
 - Slide: bacteria bound coagulase → clumping factor
 - Tube: free (exoenzyme) and bound coagulase → Staphylocoagulase
- Coagulase –ve:
 - Results: same as 'control', including:
 - S. epidermidis
 - S. hyicus (some)

Coagulase produced by bacteria



Coagulase: an enzyme causing blood clot formation

Coagulase production: Coagulase is tightly bound to the surface of the bacterium *S. aureus* and can coat its surface with fibrin upon contact with blood. The fibrin clot may protect the bacterium from phagocytosis and isolate it from other defenses of the host. **The fibrin coat can therefore make the bacteria more virulent.**

Classification – Haemolysin

****Haemolysis: the lysis of RBC****

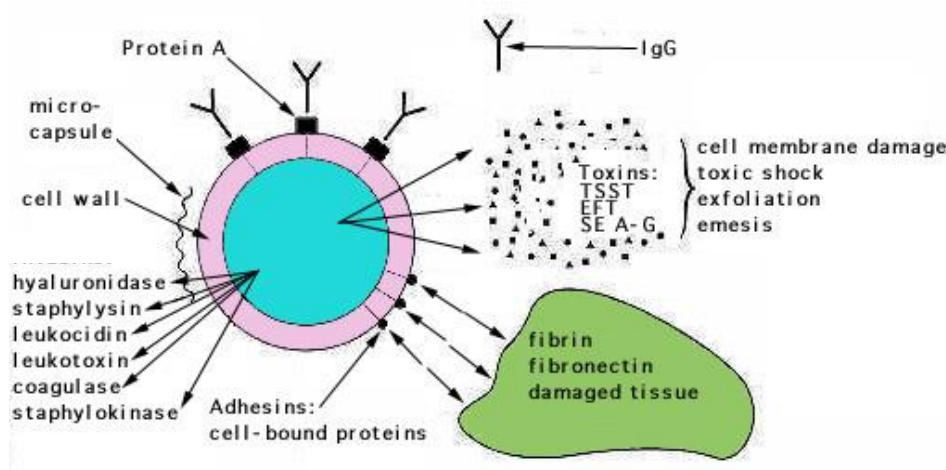
- α haemolysis: complete (completely 'digest' RBC) [L]
- β haemolysis: incomplete [R]
- non-haemolytic: no haemolysis (no change on the agar plate)



Significant animal pathogens

Genus	Example Species	
Staphylococcus	<i>S. aureus</i>	- Wound infections in animals 'successful parasite' - Serious diseases: pneumonia, osteomyelitis, mastitis
	<i>S. intermedius</i>	Carnivores
	<i>S. epidermidis</i>	Skin commensal, occasional opportunistic pathogen
	<i>S. saprophyticus</i>	Urinary tract
	<i>S. hyicus</i>	Epidermitis in pigs, greasy pig disease
	<i>S. schleiferi</i>	Otitis externa in dogs (inflammation of the ear, passage of the outer ear)

Virulence – Parasitic properties



- Adhesins
 - Cell-surface components or appendages of bacteria that facilitate adhesion or adherence to others cells or to surfaces, usually the host they are infecting or living in
 - Adhesins are a type of virulence factor
 - MSCRAMMs (Microbial Surface Components Recognising Adhesion Matrix Molecules)
 - Main adhesins:
 - Fibronectin
 - Collagen
 - Elastin