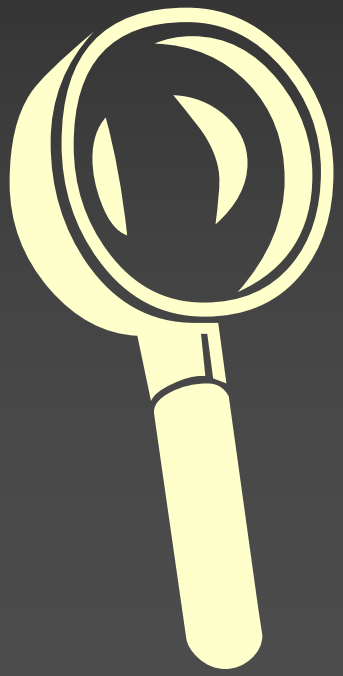
Institute for microbiology shows

TRACING THE CRIMINAL



Part seven: Anaerobic criminals

Anaerobes

Survey of topics

Pathogens with complicated diagnostics

Clostridia – clinical characteristics

Spore non forming anaerobes and lactobacilli – characteristics

Relation of bacteria to oxygen (repeating from spring term)

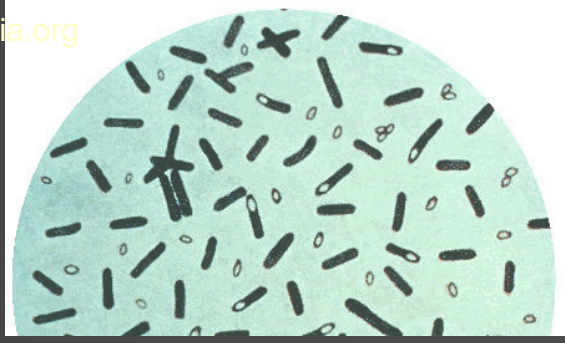
Diagnostics of anaerobic bacteria, anaerobiosis

Pathogens with complicated diagnostics

Before we start…

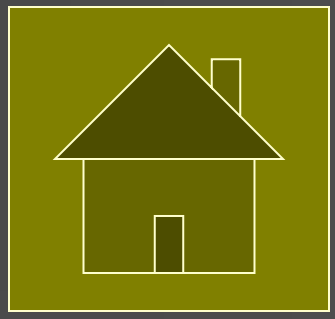
- …it is something to think about. Until now (P01 to P06) we spoke mostly about bacteria, that do not need special approach. *(Although, some bacteria from P06 did not match: gonococcus, brucella, legionella etc.)*
- Clinical doctor simply sends a specimen „for bacteriological culture“, and something would grow out of it.
- Now, it is the END! Now, we will have bacteria that do not match to this system.

http://de.wikipedia.org



And so:

- If the clinical doctor wants his specimen to be examined for presence of anaerobes, mycobacteria or actinomycetes, it should be written on the request for examination. Special approaches have to be used.
- In other agents (e. g. mycoplasms or chlamydia) it is often necessary to take serum and to perform indirect diagnostics
- Remember especially this for your practice!



- No regarding the examination – *this* should be clear for you even after 20 years.

Clostridia – clinical characteristics

Story one

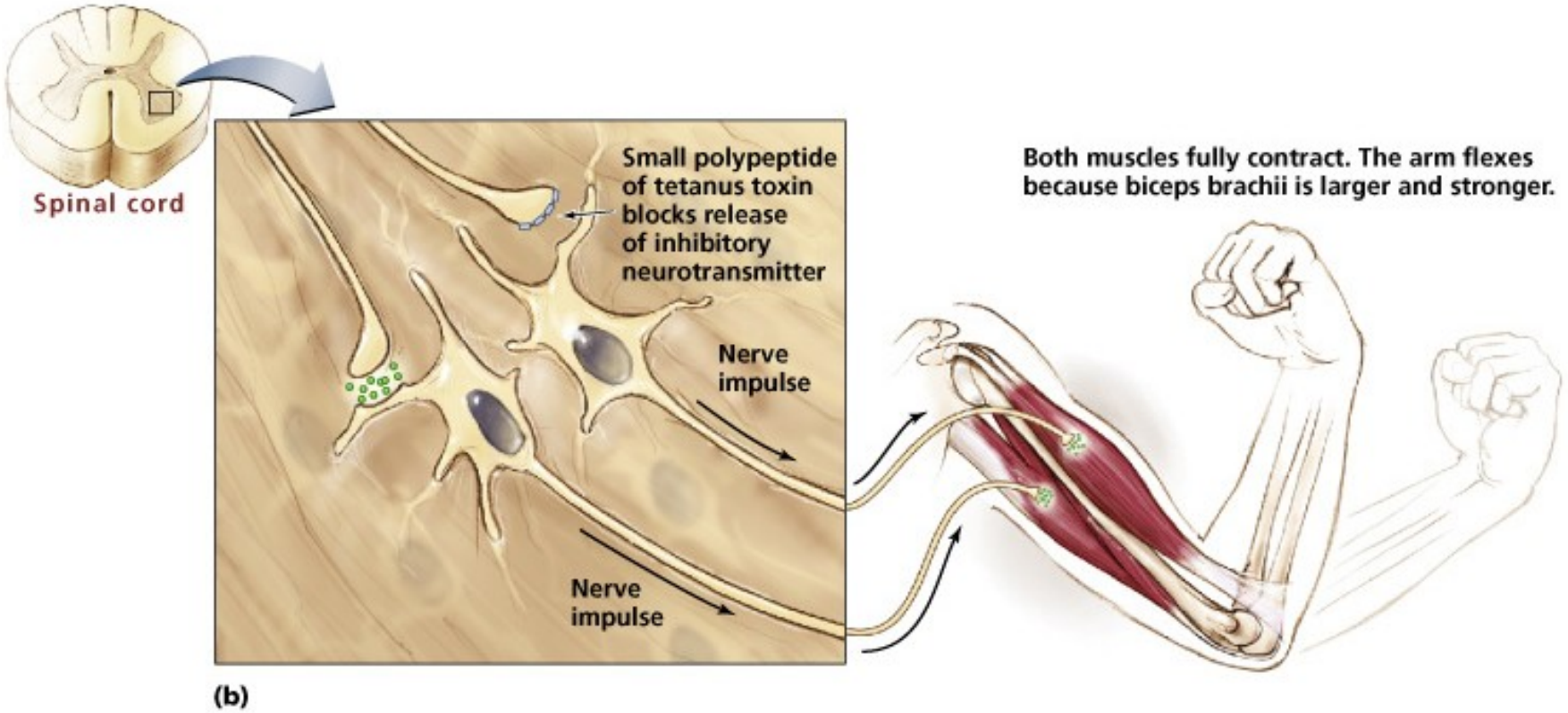
- Mrs. Cabbage was all the time seen working in the garden. It was her big hobby. Once she **injured** her hand, because a **pointed remainder of a plant was hidden in the soil**. She went to her general practicioner.
- The GP used local treatment for the wound, and then recommended **re-vaccination** agaist one serious disease
- If she would get the disease, it would be very dangerous, including **spasms** of her body

Neurotoxic clostridia

- The criminal that threatened Mrs. Cabbage was ***Clostridium tetani***, causative agent of **tetanus**. The disease is typical by a small, local inflamation, and toxin action throughout the whole body. The toxin leads to **spasms**.
- Another neurotoxic clostridium is ***Clostridium botulinum***, causative agent of **botulism**. Here the agent does not enter the body at all. Only its toxin comes to the body (usually from badly prepared conserved meat) acting again as neurotoxin, but here producing **pareses**.

Tetanus

www2.bc.cc.ca.us



Tetanus

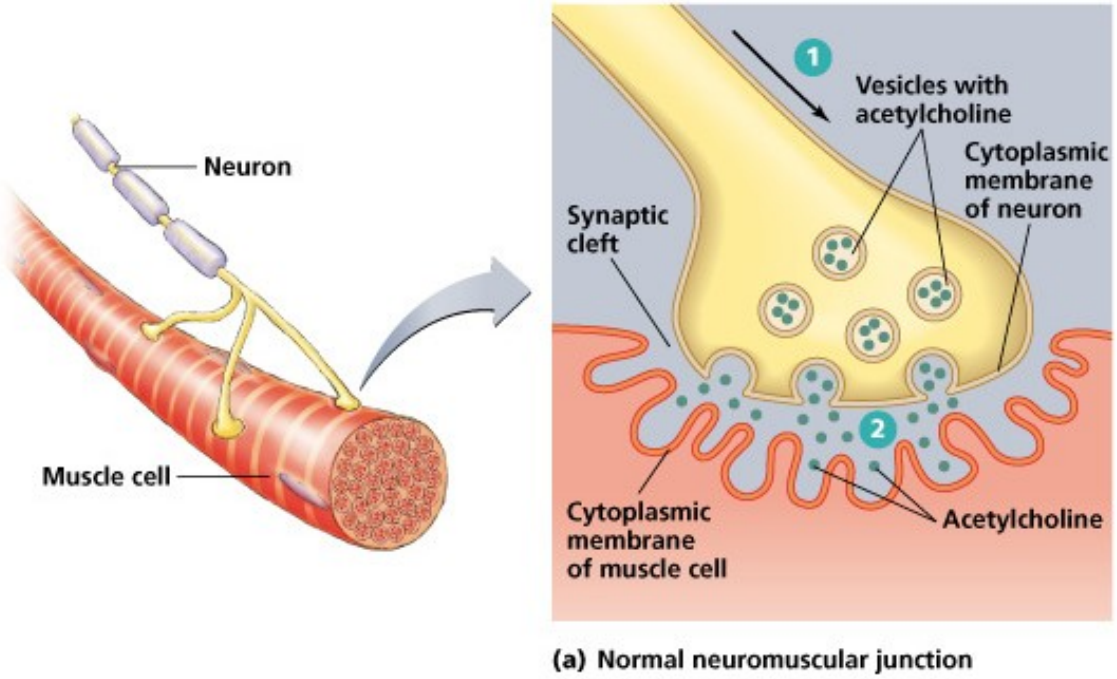
www2.bc.cc.ca.us


A tetanic man

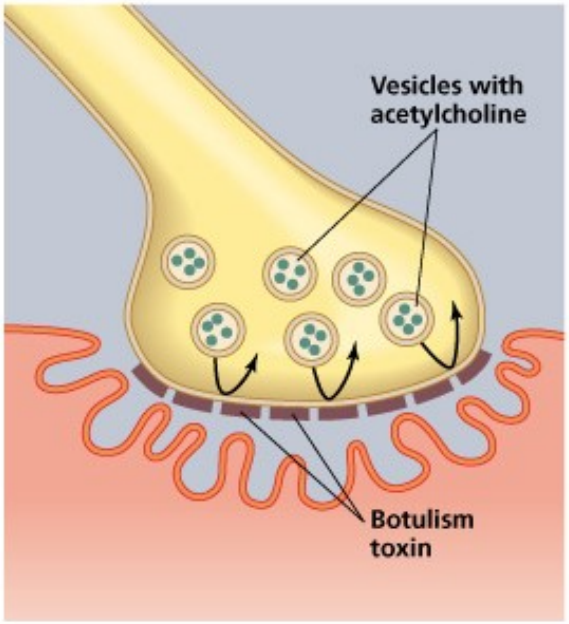
Once more tetanus

Trismus (spasm of chewing muscles)

Botulism



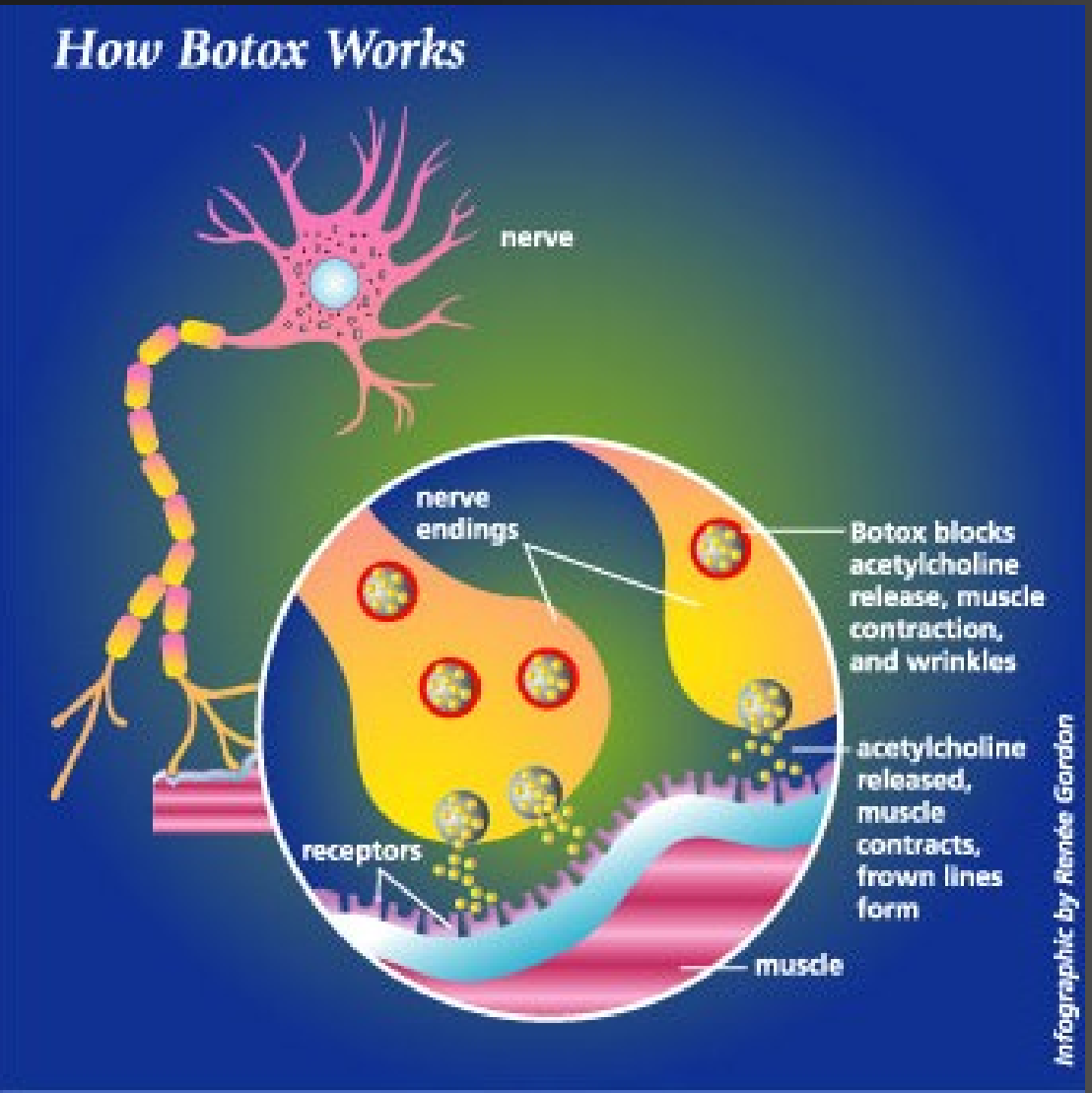
(a) Normal neuromuscular junction



(b) Neuromuscular junction with botulism toxin present

Typical tongue appearance in case of botulism

Botox: use of *Clostridium botulinum* toxin to became younger

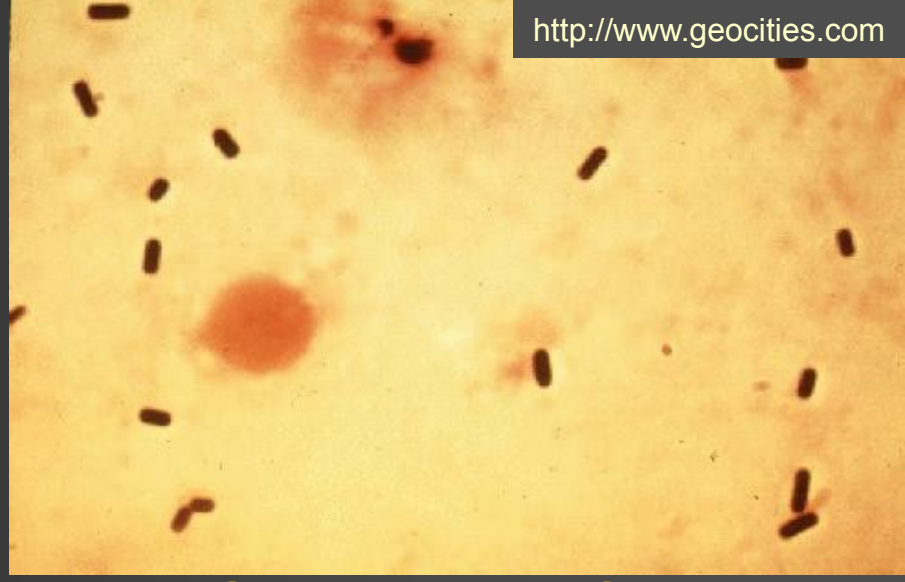


www.fda.gov

Story two

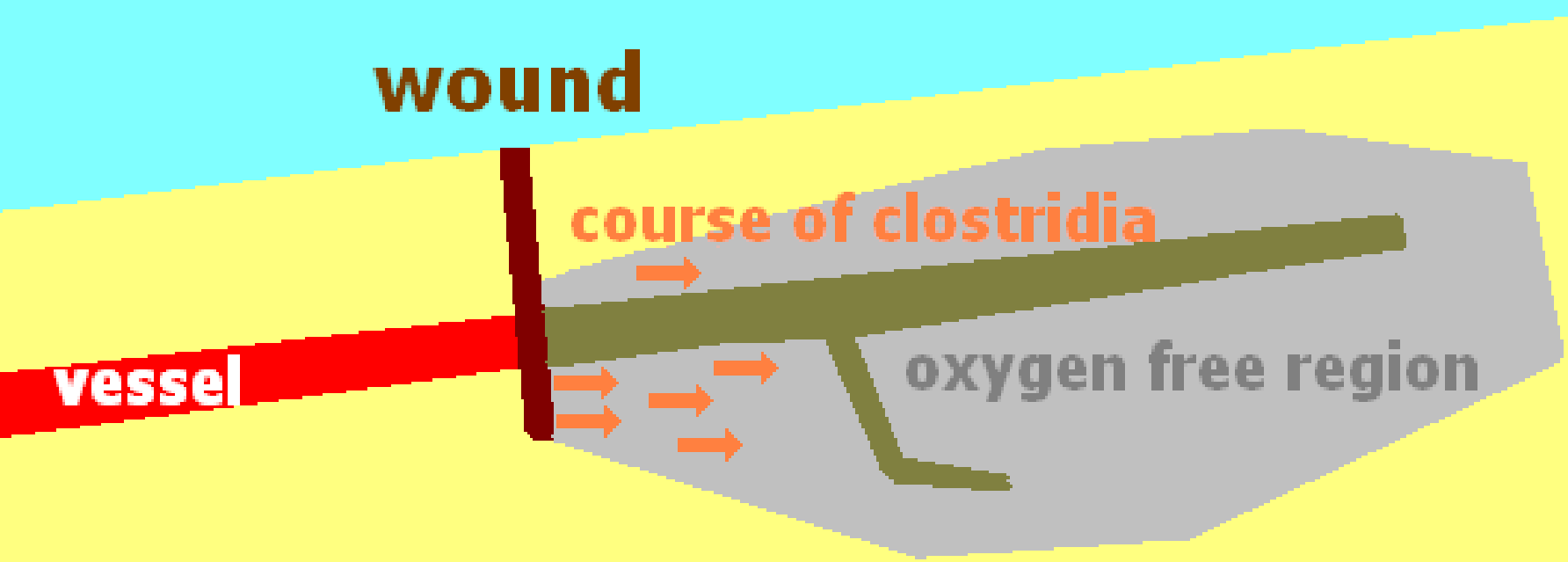
- Mustafa, Kosovo Albanian, decided to visis his cousin in neighbouring village. The field he went through had to be mines-free. Nevertheless, one mine was still present. A particle of the broken mine, dirty of mood, came deeply into Mustafa‘s tigh.
- Several days later, Mustafa came to one of field hospitals. His tigh was inflated and at knocking it was possible to hear breaking bubbles. Mustafa was operated immediatelly.

The criminal is now



- *Clostridium perfringens*, one of agents of gas gangrene (with *C. novyi*, *C. septicum,* etc.)
- Gas gangrene is a typical war disease. It is nevertheless possible to get it even during peace, e. g. in case of catastrophes
- Gas gangrene clostridia – or their enterotoxins – are intestinal pathogens, too

Gas gangrene formation



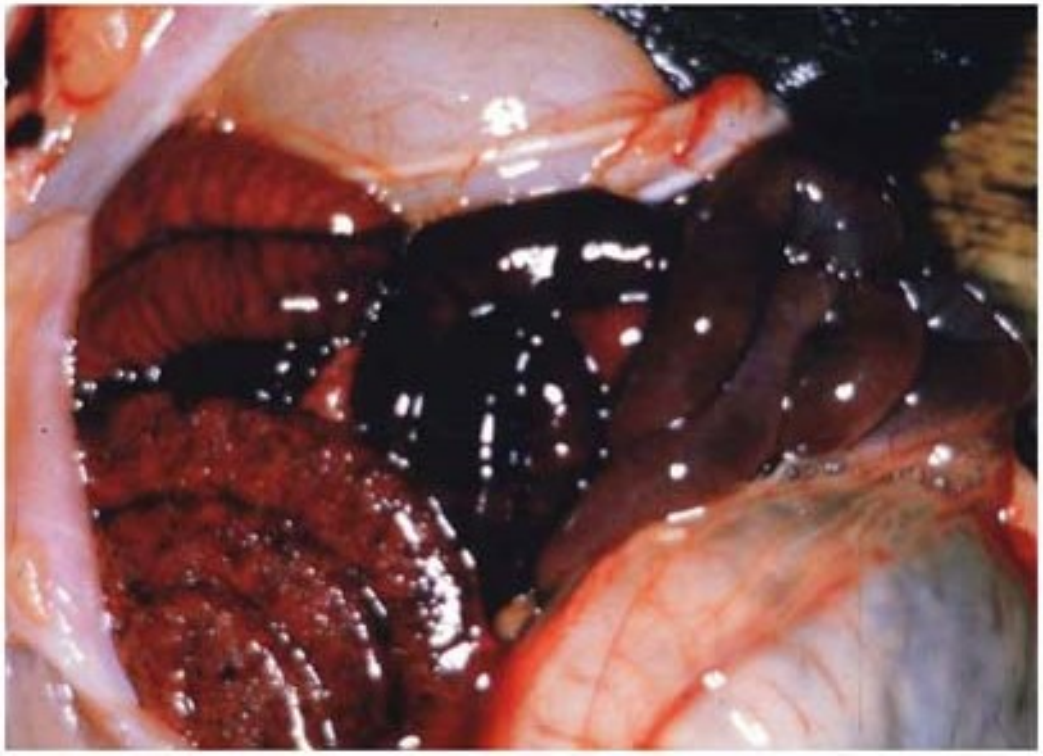
Necrotizing enterocolitis – this, too, may be caused by *C. perfringens*

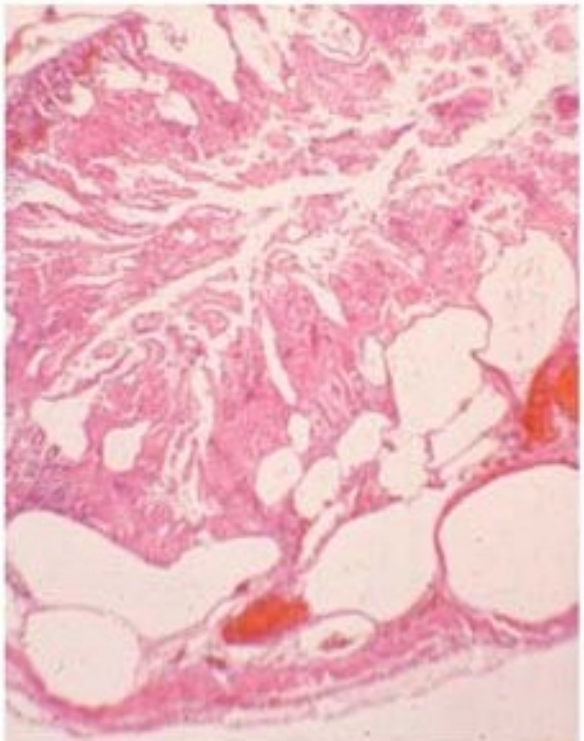
豚の壊死性腸炎 (Necrotic enteritis)

左：小腸は出血しており，結腸には菌の産生したガスによる嚢胞が見られる。

右：空腸の組織像。絨毛は壊死に陥り，固有層にはガスによる空胞が見られる。

http://www.niah.affrc.go.jp





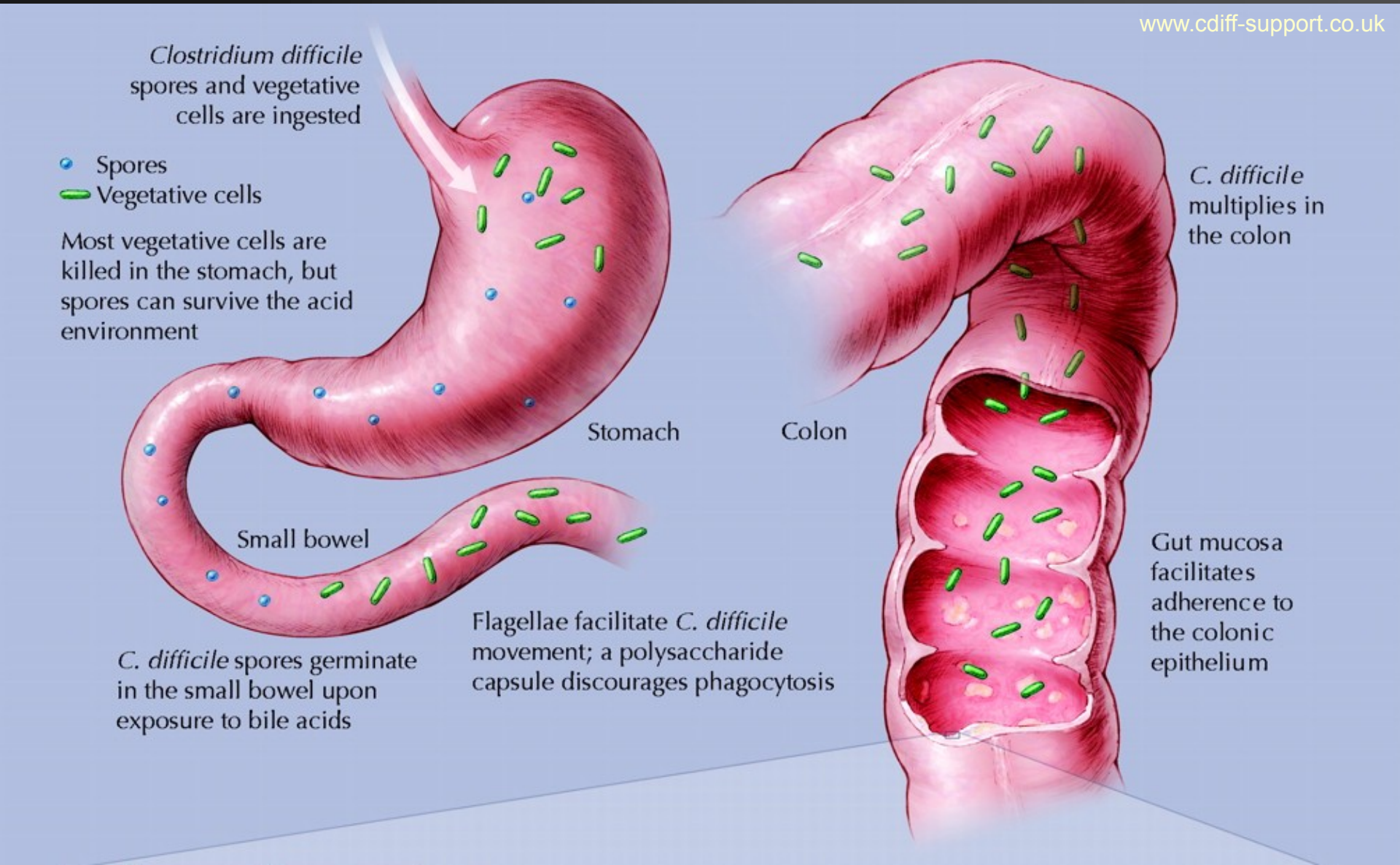
Story three

- Mr. Bones was third week in the hospital because of bacterial inflammation of bone marrow. The inflamation was treated by clindamycine (lincosamidic antibiotic). Suddenly, Mr. Bones started to have heavy diarrhoea. The departement did not have metronidazol, and so they used the old methode: Mr. Bones had to drink an ampule of vancomycine – an antibiotic, that is normally administered only administrativelly.

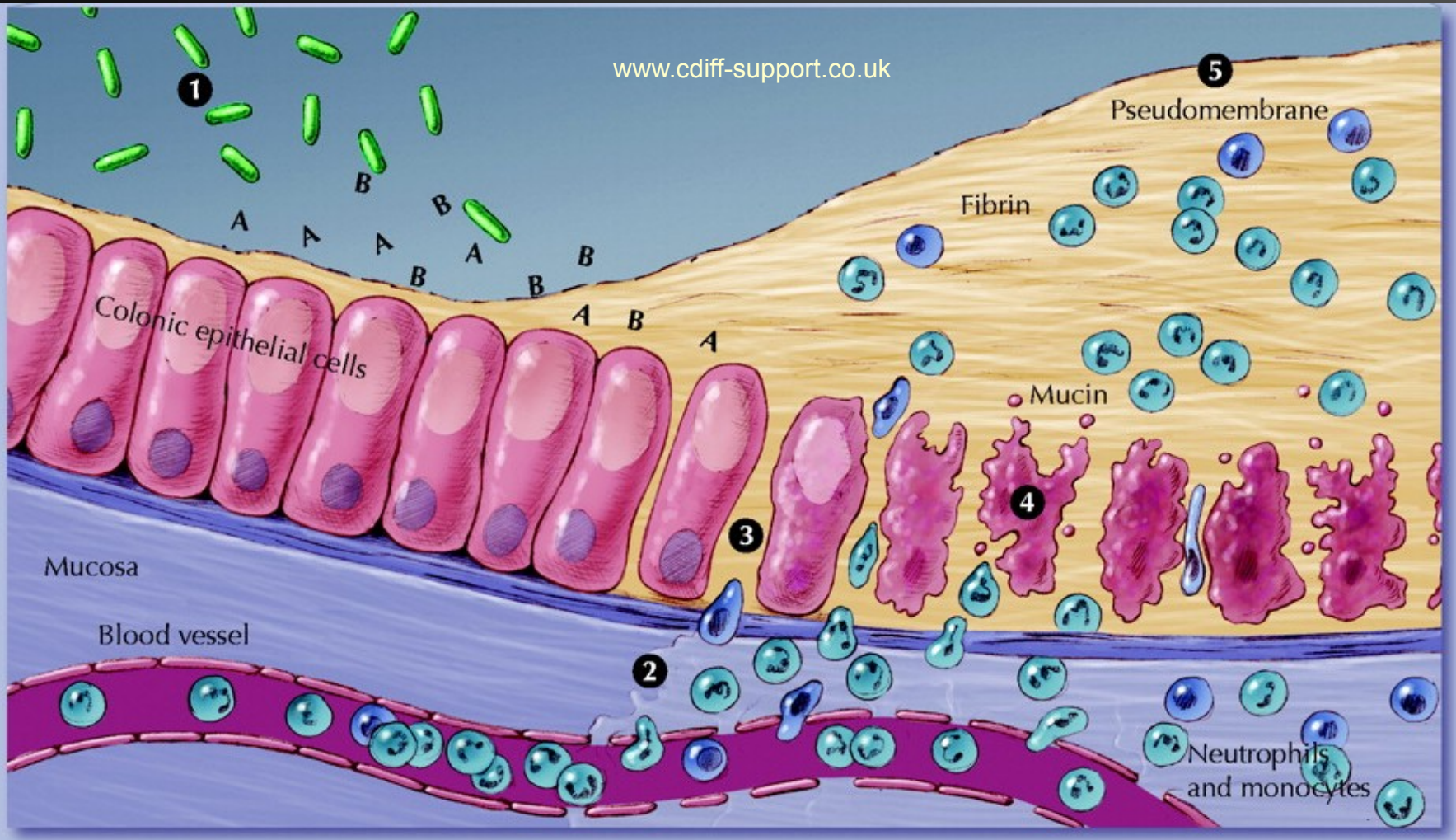
The agent

- *Clostridium difficile*, or its toxin
- The microbe is present commonly in the intestine; a problem appears when the toxin starts to be produced, and mostly when its concurrence is destroyed and it overmultiplies.
- Destroying of concurrence is mostly due to treatment by some antibiotics, formerly mostly lincosamids, but unfortunatelly, now also aminopenicillins and other drugs. Lincosamids are effective against majority of strictly anaerobic bacteria, but not *C. difficile*.
- Treatment is performed mostly using antibacterial chemoterapeutic metronidazol now

Clostridium difficile and its action I



Clostridium difficile and its action II



C. difficile vegetative cells produce toxins A and B and hydrolytic enzymes (**1**). Local production of toxins A and B leads to production of tumour necrosis factor-alpha and proinflammatory interleukins, increased vascular permeability, neutrophil and monocyte recruitment (**2**), opening of epithelial cell junctions (**3**) and epithelial cell apoptosis (**4**). Local production of hydrolytic enzymes leads to connective tissue degradation, leading to colitis, pseudomembrane formation (**5**) and watery diarrhea.

Toxins of *Clostridium difficile*

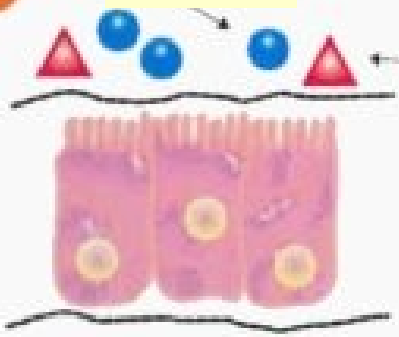
Toxins of Clostridium difficile

www.zuova.cz

1

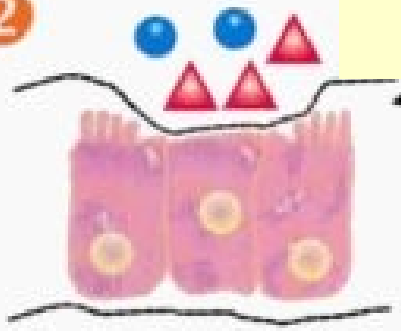
B toxins

A toxins



2

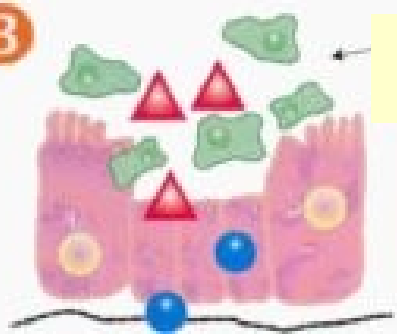
INTESTINAL MUCOSA DISRUPTION



Polymorphonuclears are bound to A toxins

3

INFLAMMATION OF INTESTINAL MUCOSA

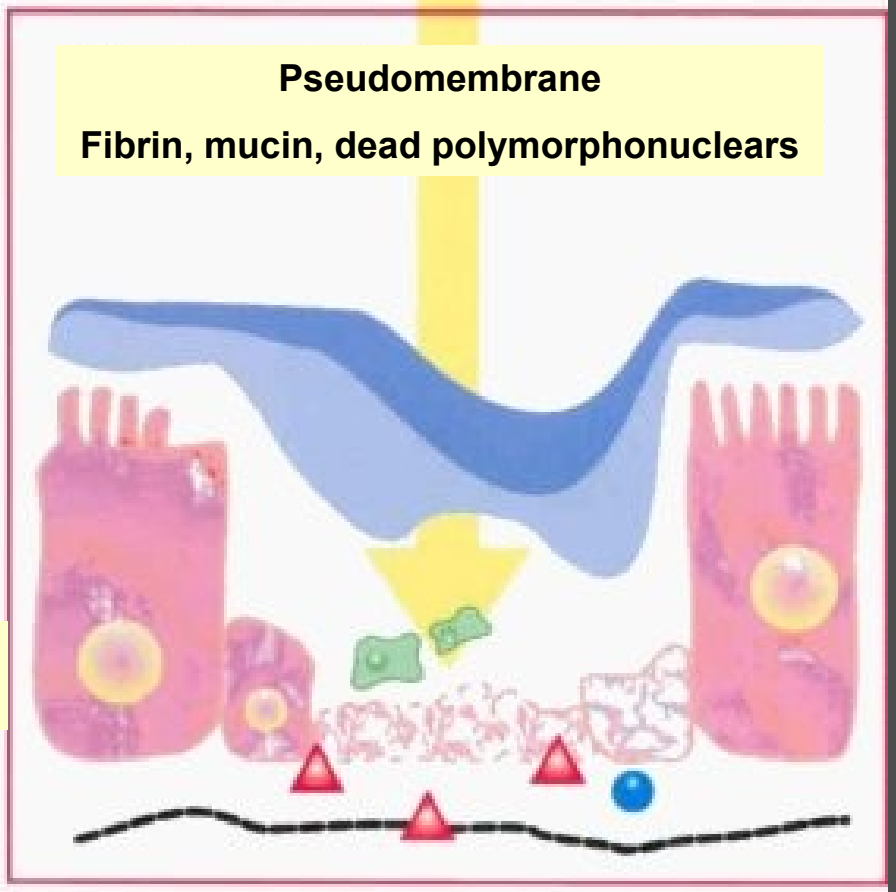


B toxins kill enterocytes

4

Pseudomembrane

Fibrin, mucin, dead polymorphonuclears



Pseudomembranous colitis

www.zuova.cz

sitemaker.umich.edu

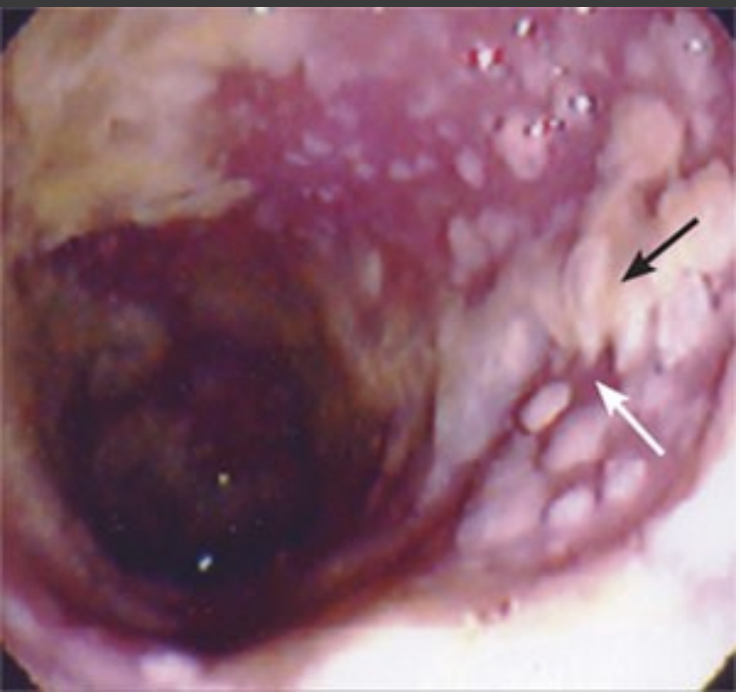


Figure 2. Colon Specimen Obtained during a Colectomy in a Patient with Pseudomembranous Colitis.

Characteristic raised, adherent yellow plaques that vary in size from 2 to 10 mm are visible on the colonic mucosa. The intervening mucosa is hyperemic but not ulcerated.

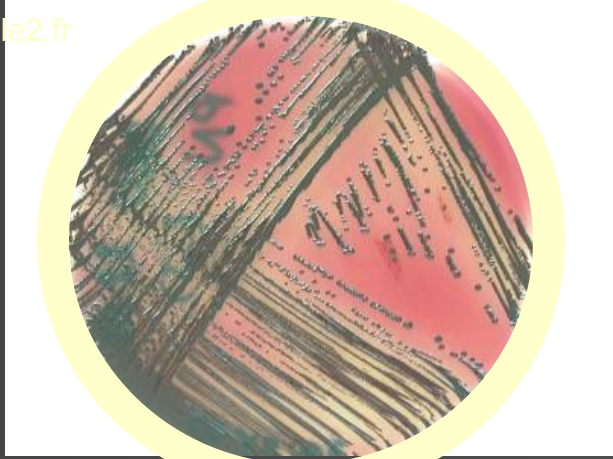
Clostridia – survey

C. tetani	Causes tetanus
C. botulinum	Produces botulotoxin
Clostridium perfringens, C. septicum, C. welchii a aj.	Gas gangrene clostridia (+ intestinal pathogenicity)
C. difficile	Enteropathogenous

It is necessary to know that even clostridia take normally part on common intestinal microflora. Problems start in overmultiplication, in cases of coming to places that are not normal for them, appearance of a strain, producing big amounts of a toxin etc.

Spore non forming anaerobes (and lactobacilli) – clinical characteristics

Story four



- Mrs. Cancer was hospitalized because of intensive abdominal pain
- Description methods found an abscessus of pelvic region. It showed, though, a tumor cervicis – later described as a carcinoma
- In Mrs. Cancer a surgical treatment of the abscessus and than also a cancer was possible, although hysterectomy was necessary. Fortunatelly, no metastases was found.

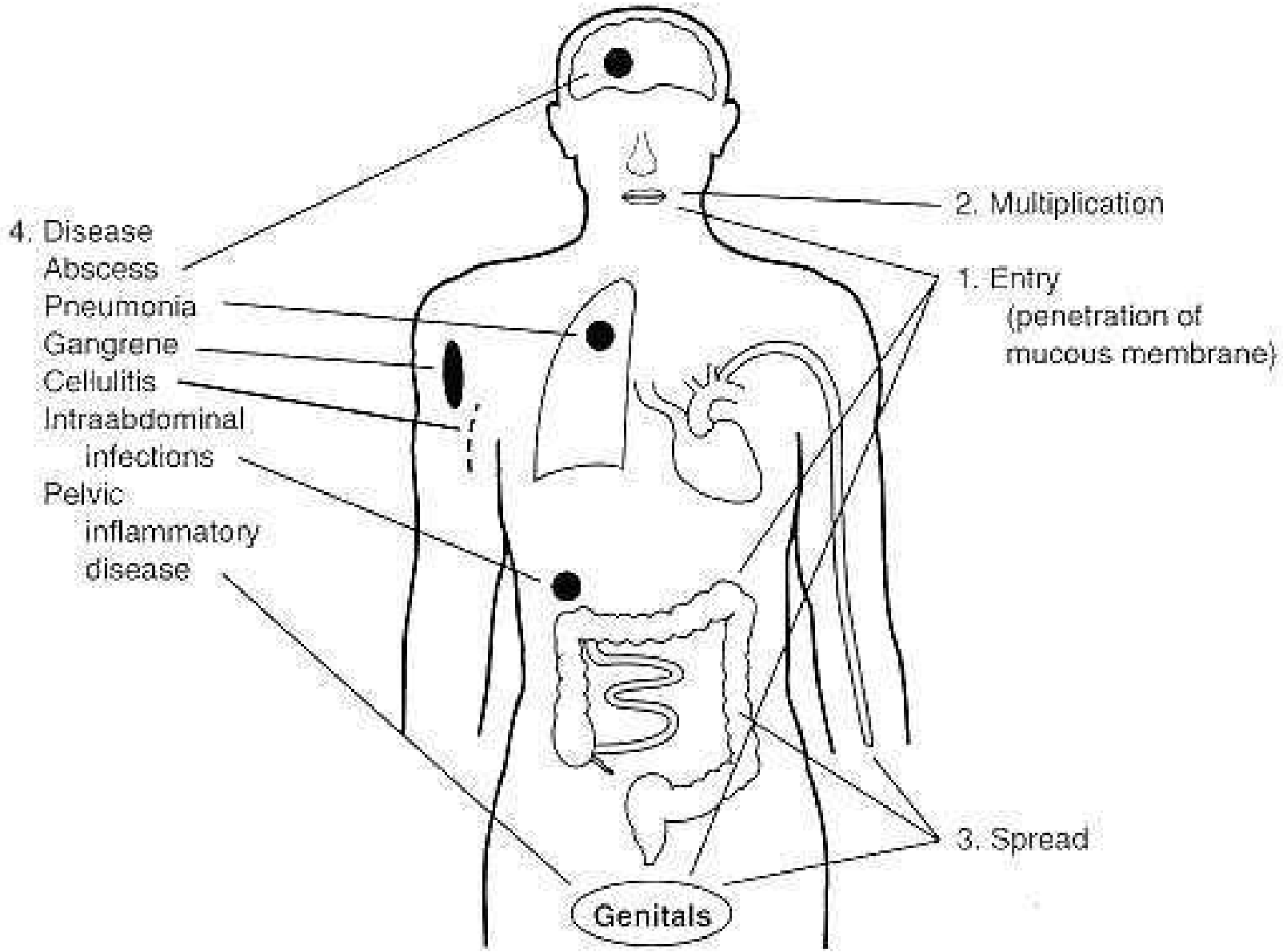
The disease is formed by

- A mixture of strictly anaerobic, but also facultative anaerobic bacteria
- It is likely, that the mixture was previously preent in Mrs. Cancer‘s vagina, without making any problems
- The cancer broke the anatomical barrier, and so microbes came to other places, causing the abscessus
- Non-sporulating anaerobic bacteria have limited ways of transmission because of their characteristics
- Majority of infectons are endogenous

Common characteristics of spore-non-forming anerobes

- They are present as a part of common microflora:
  - in the large bowel they form 99.9 % of the total amount of microorganisms, about one kilogram of them
  - in oral cavity they live thanks to biofilm – they are inside and so they have no acces to the air that would be harmful for them
  - in vagina they are not present in all females, but about 70 % of women have some anaerobes in vagina; in case of overmultiplication, it is a dysmicrobia, requiring treatment
- In inflamation usually there is no single pathogen, but rather a mixture, „Veillon microflora“

Anaerobes in the body



Anaerobic infection from oral cavity

Newborn anaerobic pneumonia

aapredbook.aappublications.org

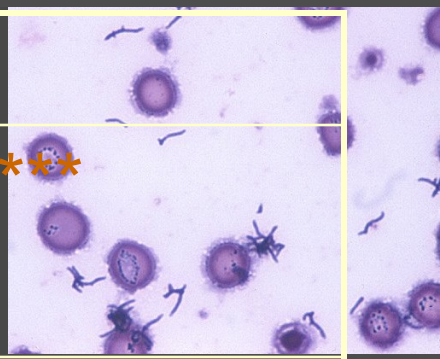
Bacteroides fragilis pneumonia in newborn (*B. fragilis* isolated from the placenta and blood culture from the newborn). Anaerobic cultures were obtained because of a fecal odor in the amniotic fluid

Gingivostomatitis: *Prevotella gingivalis*

www.mamagums.com

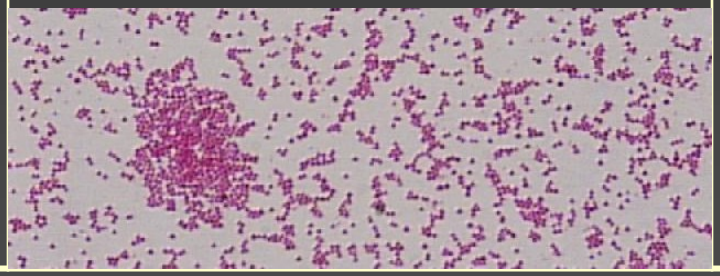
Spore non-forming anaerobes (most common species in humans)

http://www.geocities.com



	Cocci	Bacilli
G+	*Peptococcus* *Peptostreptococcus*	*Propionibacterium**** *Eubacterium*
G-	*Veillonella*	*Fusobacterium*, *Leptotrichia** *Bacteroides, Prevotella, Porphyromonas***

http://www.geocities.com

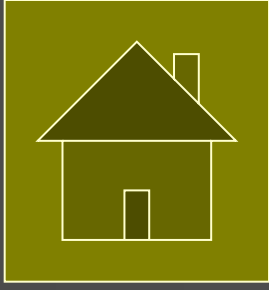


*pointed ends of the rod
**round ends of the rod
***it is not a full anaerobe

Story five

- Miss Clark had chronical probles with her **vaginal infections**
- Topic antibiotics in form of vaginal globules of cream with applicator gave her only partial help, pathogens often came back again
- Finally, her gynecologist advised to use a **probiotic drug** with some „good“ bacteria, that would **bring back the original vaginal microflora** and not allow the pathogens to multiply again
- The main „good bacterium“ was…

Lactobacillus acidophilus, „Döderlein‘s bacillus“



- Lactobacilli are quite robust Gram-positive rods. They are called lactobacilli, because they ferment various substrates (moslty glucose and lactose) to lactate
- Lactobacilli are the most important part of normal vaginal microflora, and also important part of intestinal microflora
- Lactobacilli are **not** anaerobic bacteria. Nevertheless, as they are often microaerophilic, they are usually not able to grow at the normal atmosphere. On the contrary, the imperfect anaerobiose of our common anaerobic jars and anaerostats enable them to grow better.

Relation of bacteria to oxygen (repeating)

Remember, what condition enable bacterial growth

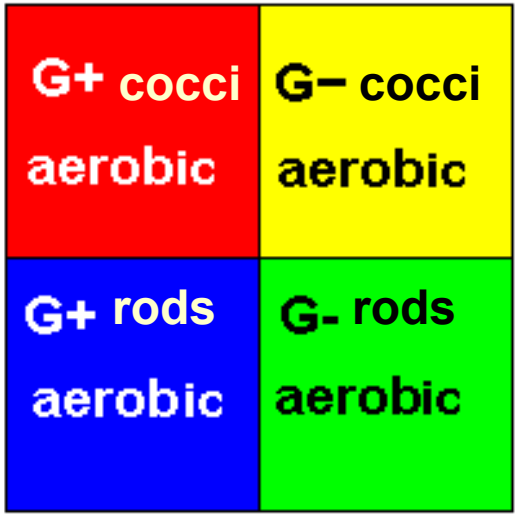
Conditions	Normal	↓ O_2	↑ CO_2	No O_2
Strict aerobes	yes	yes	yes	no*
Facultative anaerobes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Aerotolorant bact.				
Microaerofilic bact.	no	yes	(yes)	no*
Capnofilic bacteria	no	(yes)	yes	no*
Strict anaerobes	no	no	no	yes**

*In practice often growing – common anaerobiose is not ideal

**In practice, sometimes not growing – common anaerobiose is not ideal. Such bacteria (EOS – Extremely oxygen sensitive) are not commonly culturable

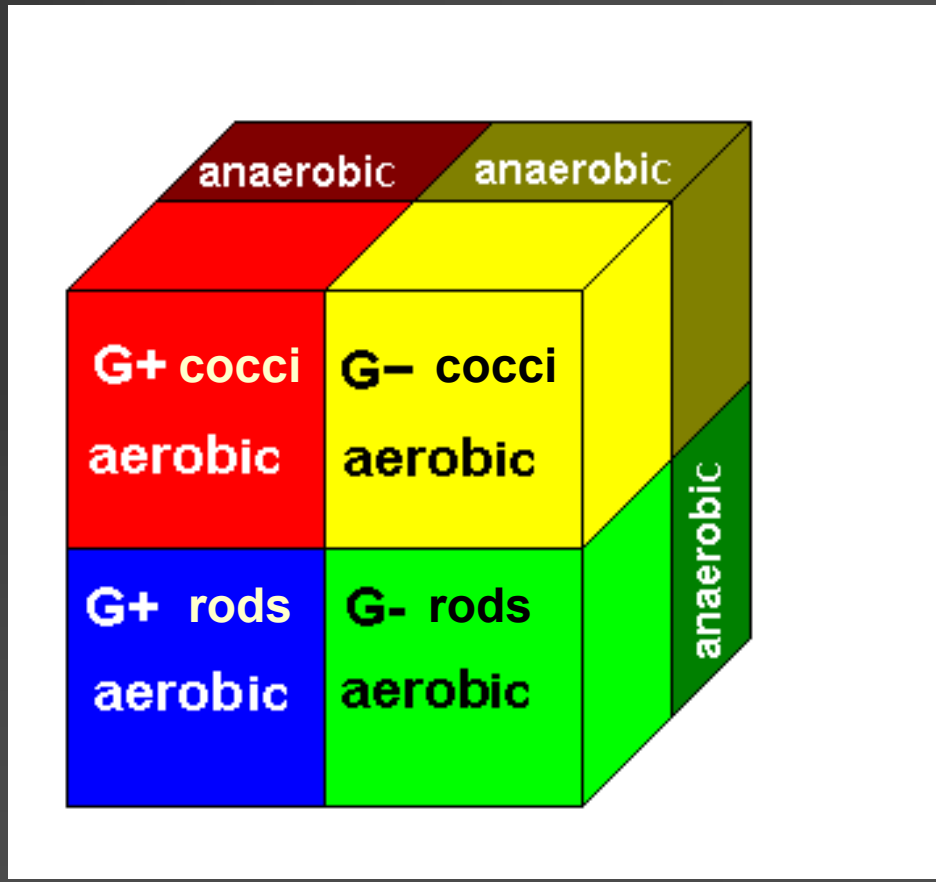
What we know until now

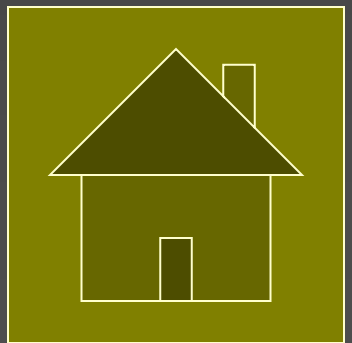
- In practicals P1 to P6 we made acquaintance with four groups of microbes growing at aerobic conditions – some of them strictly aerobic as e. g. pseudomonads, some facultative anaerobic as e. g. *Escherichia coli.*



Now, we add four more groups

- Each of the four groups have anaerobic „brothers“. Their characteristics differ considerably from aerobic bacteria and have some common characteristics. Only genus *Clostridium*, spore forming, is different





Diagnostics of anaerobic bacteria, how to obtain anaerobiosis

How to search for the anaerobic bacteria – I

- Microscopy: More important than in aerobic bacteria, because of morphological diversity
- Culture: It is necessary to get anerobiosis using anaerobic jars or boxes. In liquid media it is sufficient to pour parafin oil over the medium. VL (viande levure) broth, VL blood agar and various special media are used
- Biochemical identification: catalase and oxidase usually negative, mutual differenciation possible biochemically, and chromatographical gas analysis (they are biochemically active)
- Antigen analysis and indirect diagnostics are rarelly used in diagnostics

Sampling and transporation in anaerobic cultivation

- Priority has liquid specimen, e. g. pus, the best is to send it in syringe with a cap after elimination of oxygen*
- When a swab is sent, it is necessary to send it in a transport medium; on the other hand, common, e. g. Amies medium, is sufficient
- It is also possible to talk with laboratory and to inoculate the specimen directly to media, e. g. peroperationally.

**for safety reasons, unlike in older recommendations, it is no more recommended to use a syringe with needle*

Microscopy of anaerobic bacteria

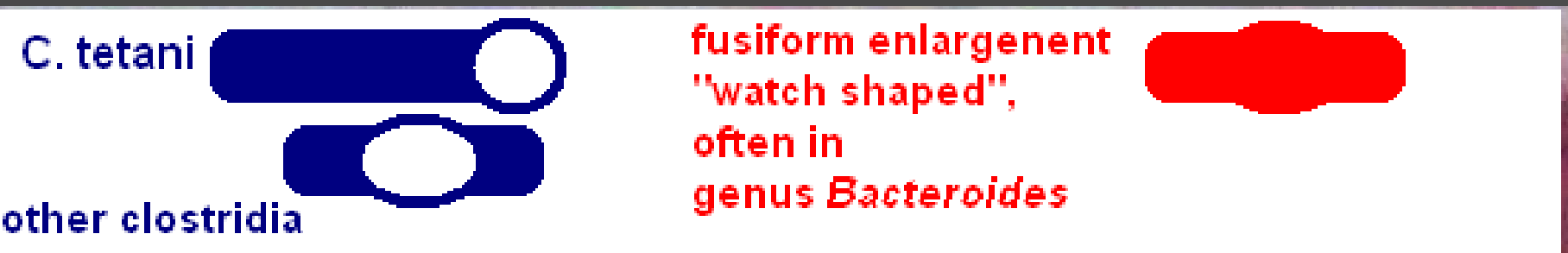
- We perform normal Gram staining. We differenciate bacteria according to shape and cell wall type into cocci and bacilli, G+ and G–.
- Anaerobic rods vary in shape very much – one preparation contains various formations from filamentous to nearly coccal ones
- In Gram-negative rods, it is useful to differenciate between those with rounded ends (*Bacteroides*, *Prevotella*, *Porphyromonas*) and those with pointed ends, often spindle-shaped (*Fusobacterium*, *Leptotrichia*)

Note to microscopy of anaerobes: various shapes of anaerobes

- Students sometimes confuse a spore (unstained formation, only its margins are visible) and enlargements of rods (visible in some non spore-forming and Gram negative rods).
- In real spore-forming microbes it is useful to follow position of the spore. In *Clostridium tetani* the spore is terminal (at the end of the cell)

True endospore

Enlargement



Clostridium tetani

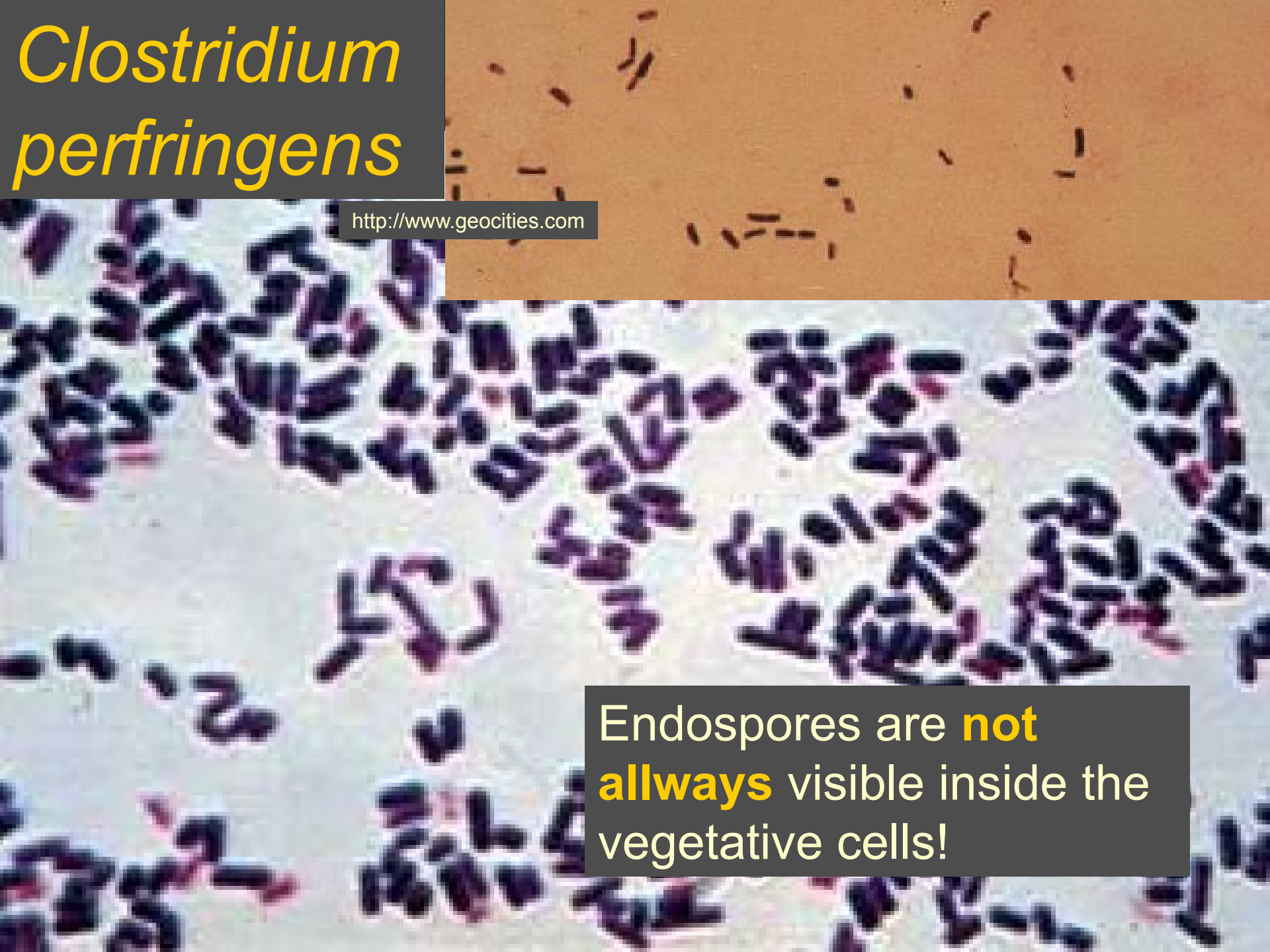
http://www.geocities.com

C. botulinum


acpcommunity.acp.edu/

www2.bc.cc.ca.us
Vegetative cells
Endospore-bearing cells
10 µm

Clostridium perfringens



Endospores are **not allways** visible inside the vegetative cells!

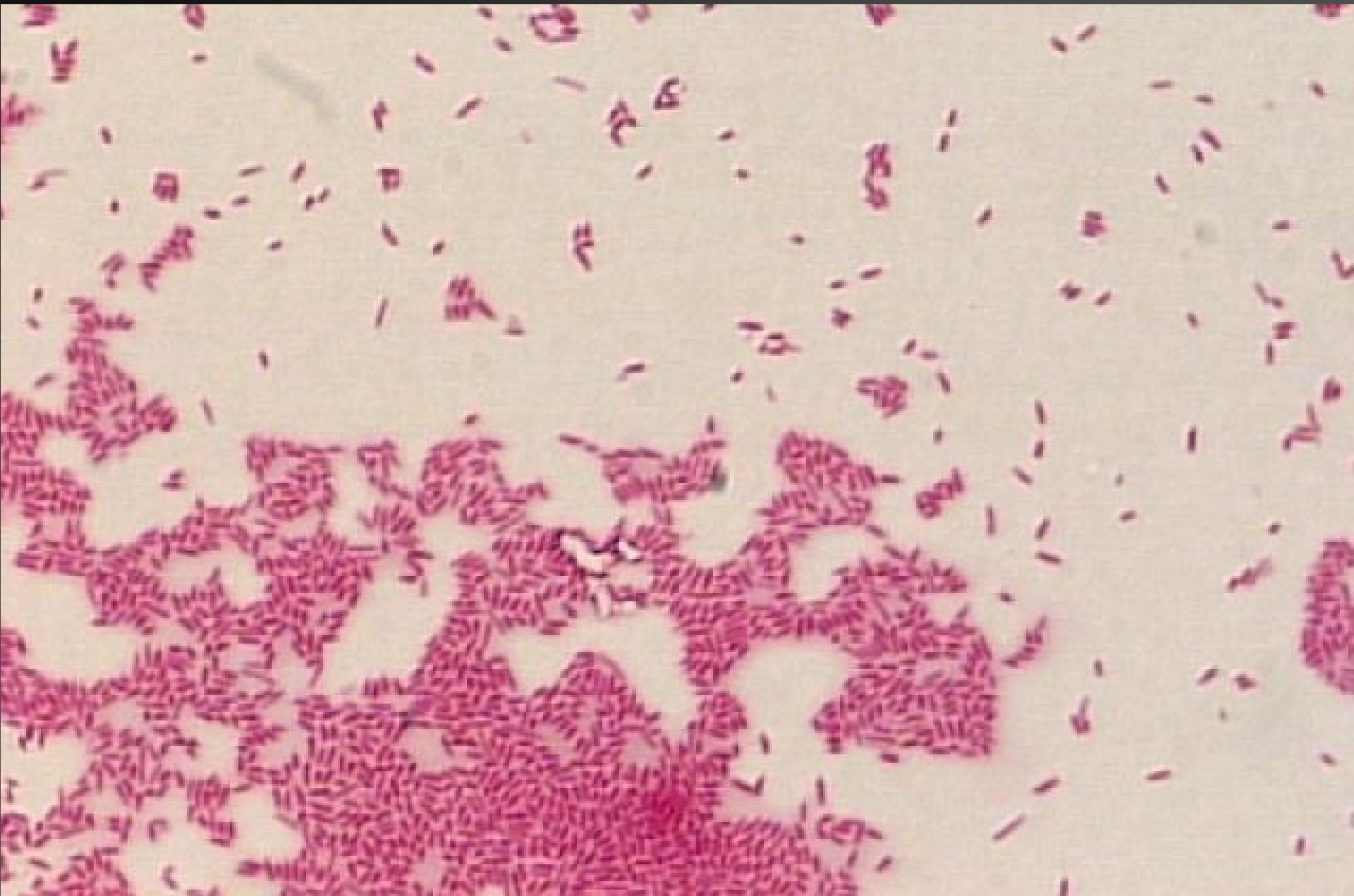
Clostridium difficile

http://medecinepharmacie.univ-fcomte.fr

Clostridium difficile

Bacteroides fragilis

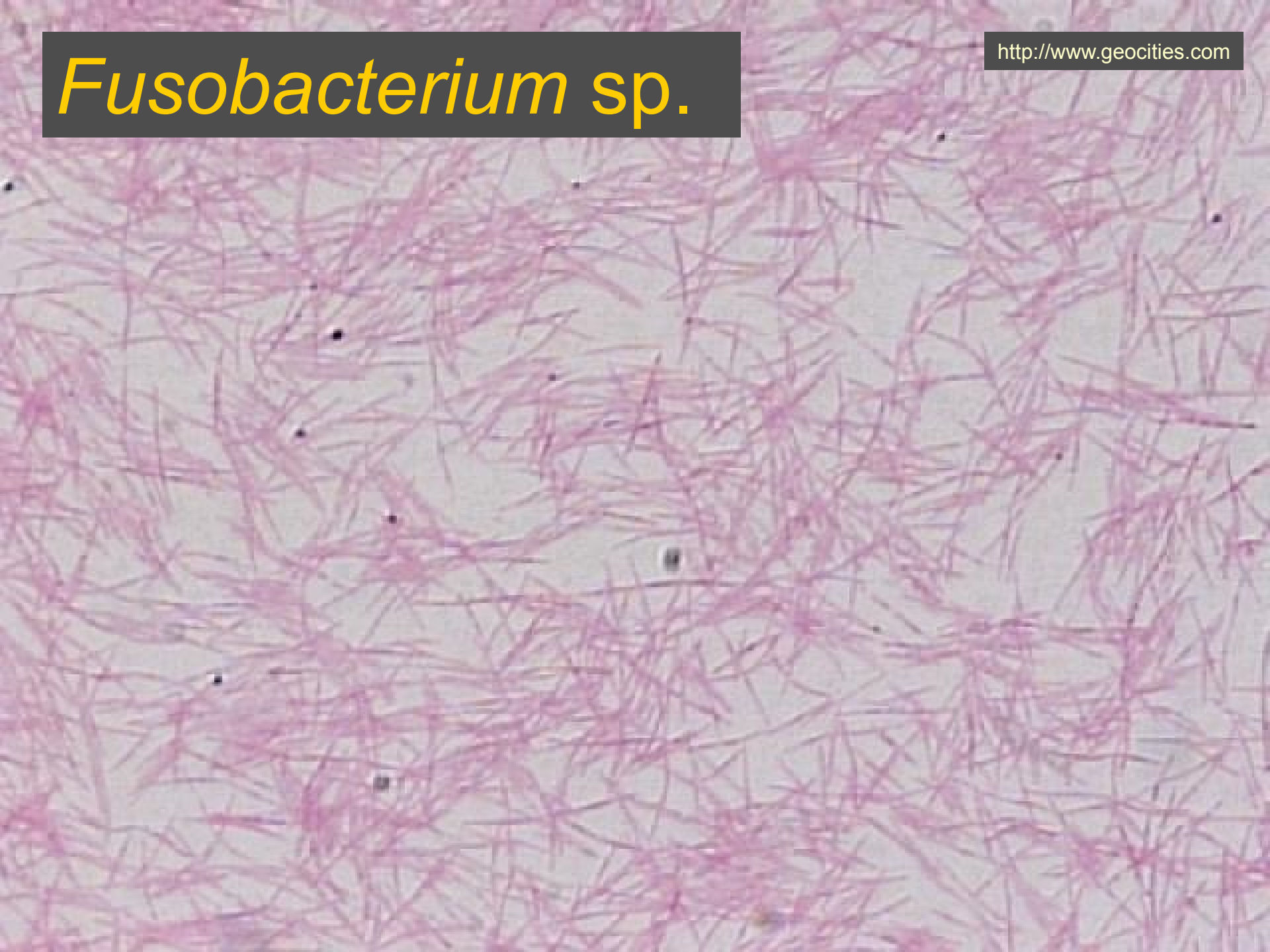
http://www.geocities.com
Bacterloides fragilis



Bacteroides sp.

www.medmicro.info, photo O. Z.

Fusobacterium sp.

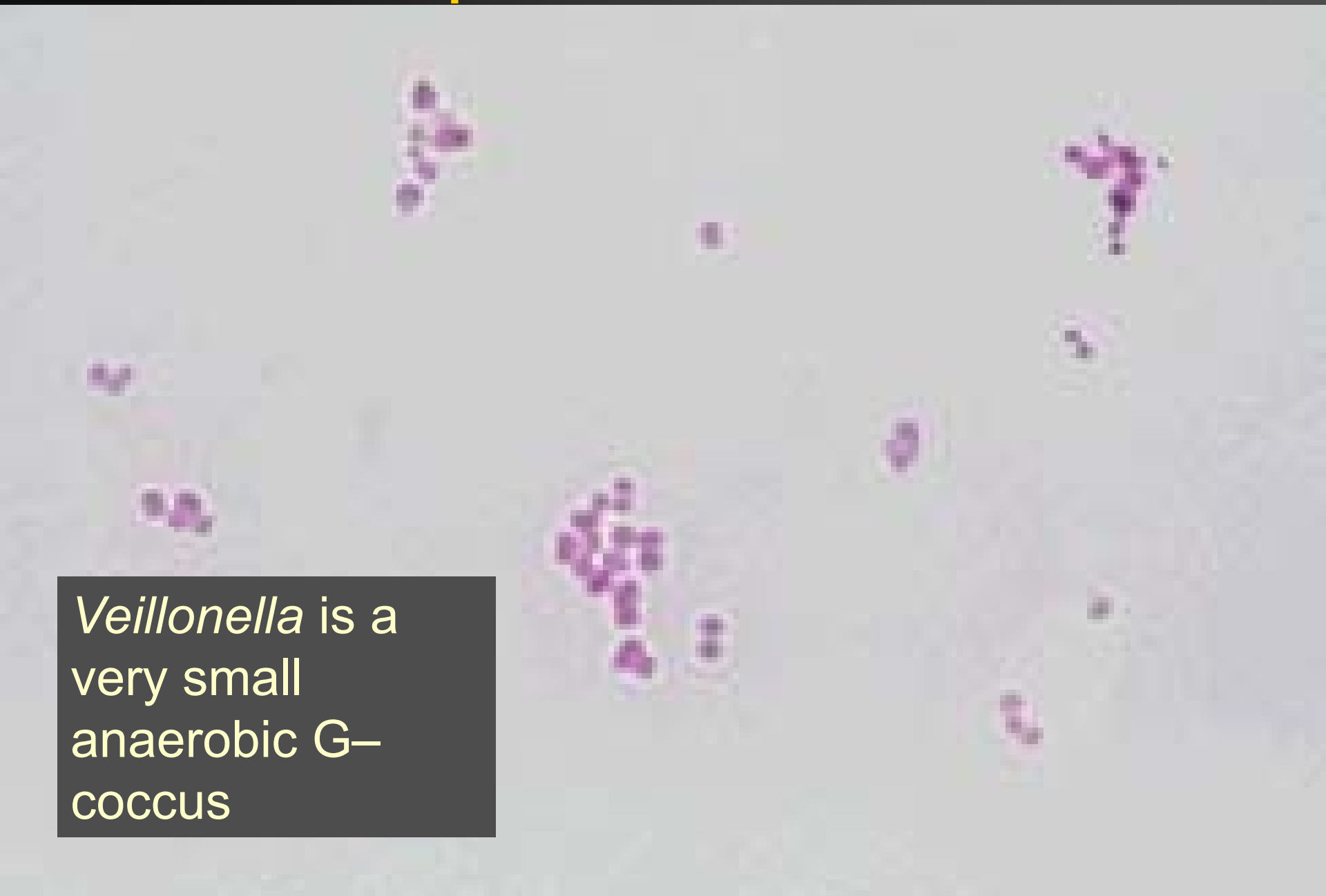


Peptostreptococcus sp.

http://www.geocities.com

Peptostreptococci are anaerobic G+ cocci in chains, while peptococci are anaerobic G+ cocci in clusters.

Veillonella sp.



Veillonella is a very small anaerobic G– coccus

Culture of anaerobic bacteria

- Anaerobic bacteria grow often in tiny, irregular colonies, that may have tails on margins. It smells typically.
- Aerobic culture on blood agar enables only growth of strictly aerobic and facultatively anaerobic bacteria. So, if a bacterium does not grow here, but does grow in anaerobic conditions, it is a strictly aerobic bacterium. To culture anaerobes, we use VL blood agar (in practice we say simply „VL agar“).

To anaerobic culture: How to get the anaerobiose

- Mechanically – VL broth is covered by parafin oil
- Physically – in the anaerobic box, air is replaced by a mixture of anaerobic gases from a bomb
- Chemically – in the anaerobic jar
  - organic acids → H_2 and CO_2
  - in the second phase on palladium catalysator hydrogen reacts with oxygen, and water is formed, so oxygen is consumpted

Covering of VL-broths by parafin oil

www.medmicro.info, photo O. Z.

Anaerobic box

www.medmicro.info, photo O. Z.

Anaerobic box (detailed description)

www.medmicro.info, photo O. Z.

Anaerobic jar
(principle)

Palladium calalysator (beneath the lid) necessary for the second phase

Generator of anaerobiose (packet with chemicals) necessary for the whole reaction

www.medmicro.info, photo O. Z.

Anaerobic jar
(detailed description)

air-proof lid

palladium calalyser
(beneath the lid)

construction for placing
of Petri dishes

Anaerobiose generator
(packet with chemicals)

www.medmicro.info, photo O. Z.

Another anaerobic jar

gold.aecom.yu.edu

Fusobacterium sp.

http://pharmacie.univ-lille2.fr

Morphology of colonies of anaerobic bacteria

- Clostridia use tu have quite large, iregullar, badly smelling colonies
- Other anaerobic bacteria have rather small colonies
- Some anaerobic bacteria (*Prevotella melaninogenica*) have pigmented colonies

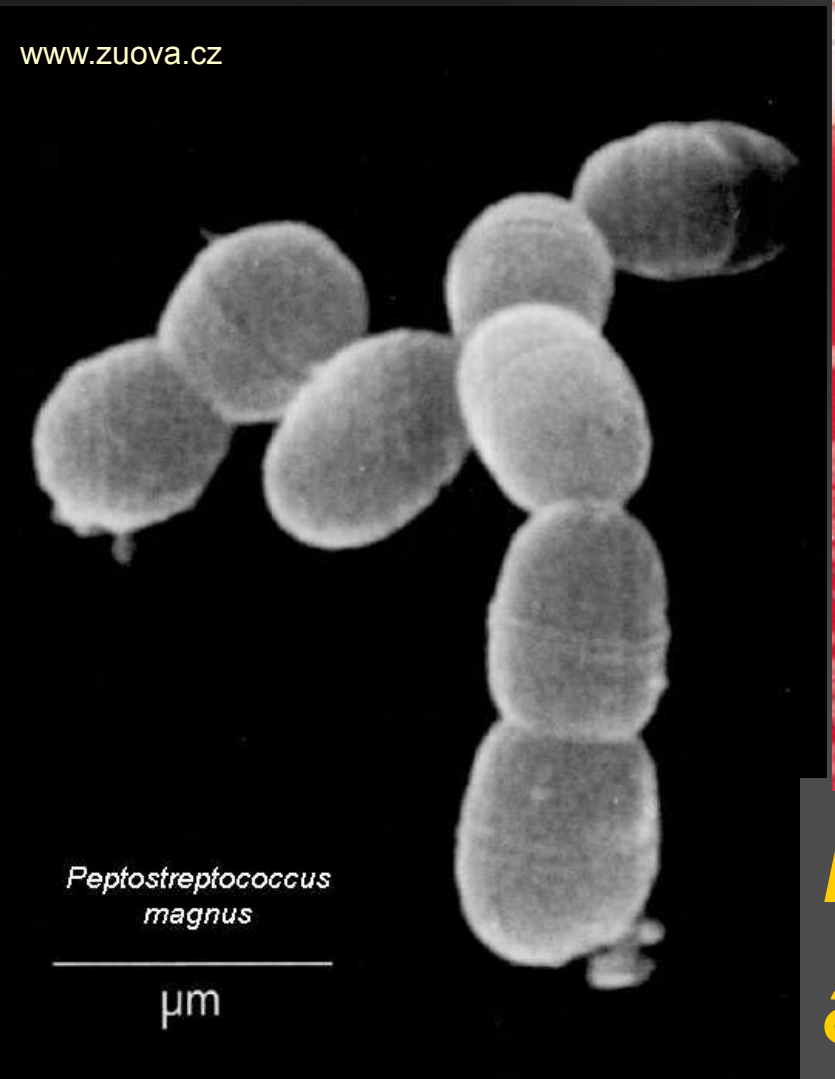
Clostridium perfringens


Clostridium septicum

Prevotella melaninogenica (black pigmentation)


Leptotrichia buccalis
http://pharmacie.univ-lille2.fr

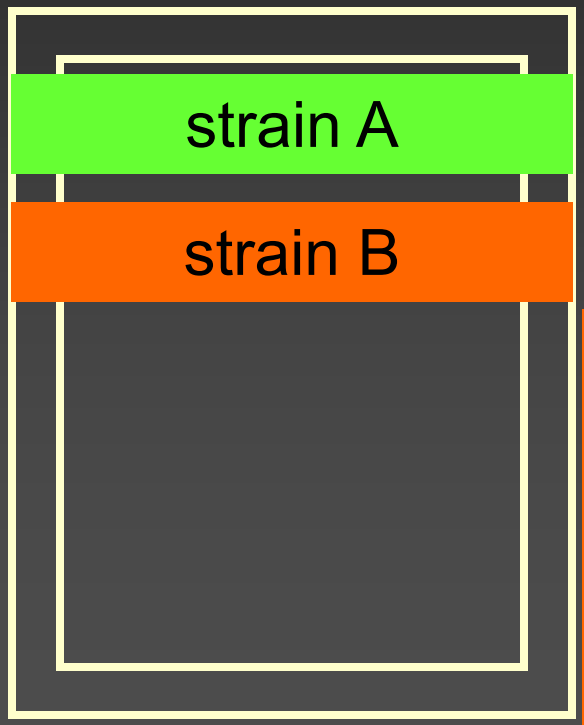
Peptostreptococcus magnus



Peptostreptococcus anaerobius

Biochemical differentiation

- Different tests are used, in Czech conditions mostly ANAEROtest 23 Lachema.



We write results of the strains („+“ or „-“) and count the octal code

We assess the result acording to the codebook

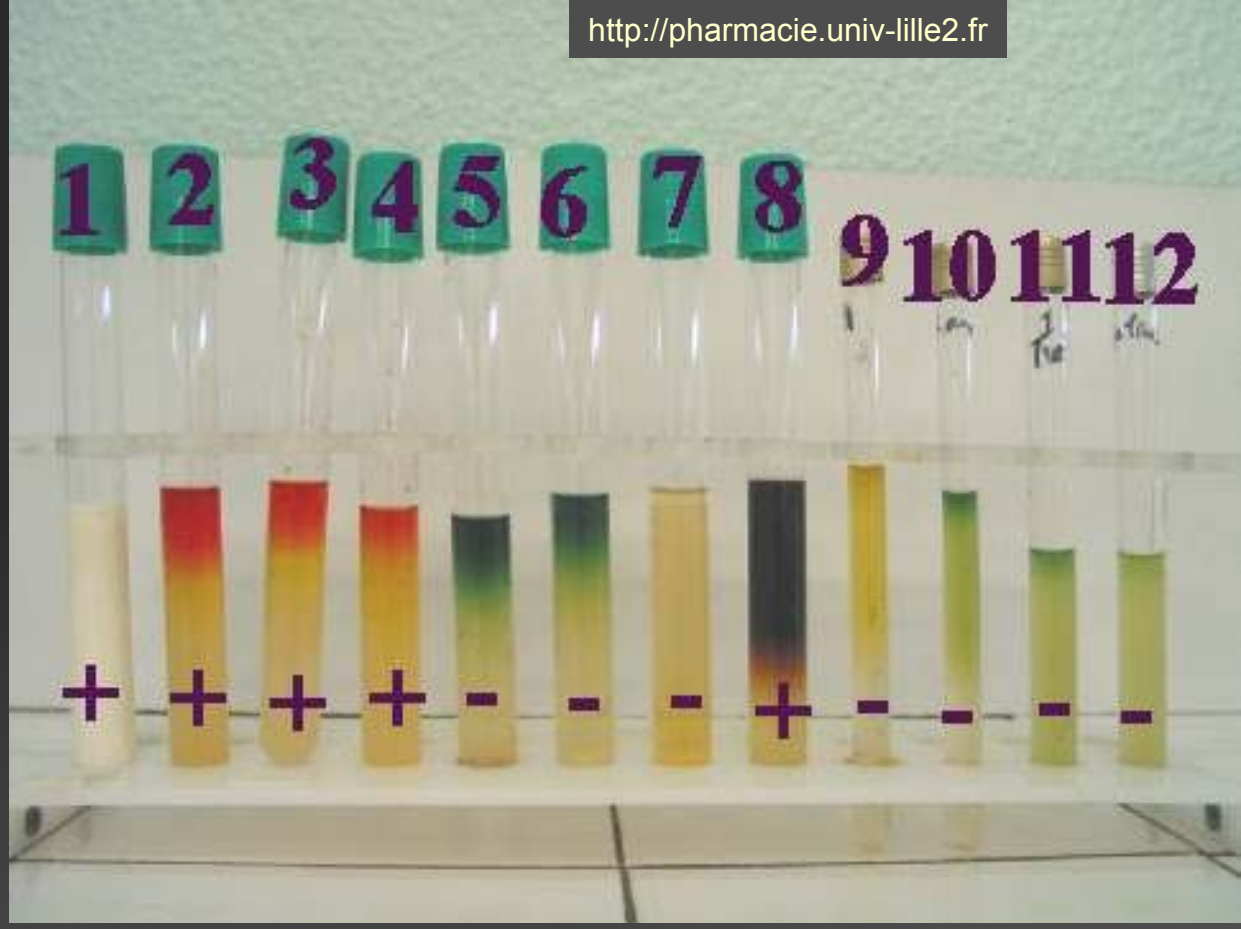
ATTENTION – the codebook is divided into several parts according to morphology of anaerobic bacteria. It is necessary to search in the proper part of the codebook

ANAEROtest 23 – example

NEC = negative control (that is why it is ANAEROtest 23 and not 24

+ 1	- 1	+ 1	+ 1	- 1	- 1	-	+
- 2	+ 2	+ 2	- 2	+ 2	- 2	-	-
+ 4	- 4	+ 4	+ 4	+ 4	- 4	+	NEC
5	2	7	5	6	0		

Other sets for diagnostics of anaerobes



Antibiotic susceptibility tests

- Antibiotic susceptibility in anaerobic bacteria is tested on media enabling their growth, so not MH agar, but usually VL blood agar
- The most classical therapy is usually classic penicillin. But *Bacteroides* genus is resistant (unlike genera *Prevotella* and *Porphyromonas*, formerly also part of old genus *Bacteroides*, that are susceptible)

Susceptibility zones – a set that can be used for anaerobes

Antibiotic	Abbrev.	Reference zone
Penicilin (basic penicilin)	P	20 mm
Amoxicilin + klavulanate (protected aminopenicilin)	AMC	20 mm
Chloramfenikol	C	21 mm
Klindamycin (lincosamid)	DA	21 mm
Imipenem (karbapenem)	IPM	16 mm
Metronidazol (imidazol)	MTZ	16 mm

Illustration photo

How to get out facultative anaerobes

- Many anaerobes are resistant to vancomycin and/or amikacin. *(In the same time they are susceptible to „not so strong“ antibiotics, as penicillin or metronidazol; see the picture)*

Detection of toxin I: lecithinase

- Lecithinase production is detected as strain precipitation on the yolk agar. Nevertheless, there are many lecithinases, and one only, that of *Clostridium perfringens* is interesting for us, we have to test, whether the lecithinase may be inhibited by a specific antitoxin.

„Negative I“ no lecithinase production. „Negative II“ a lecithinase is produced, but not the tested one

Detection of toxin II: animal experiment for tetanic/botulinic toxin

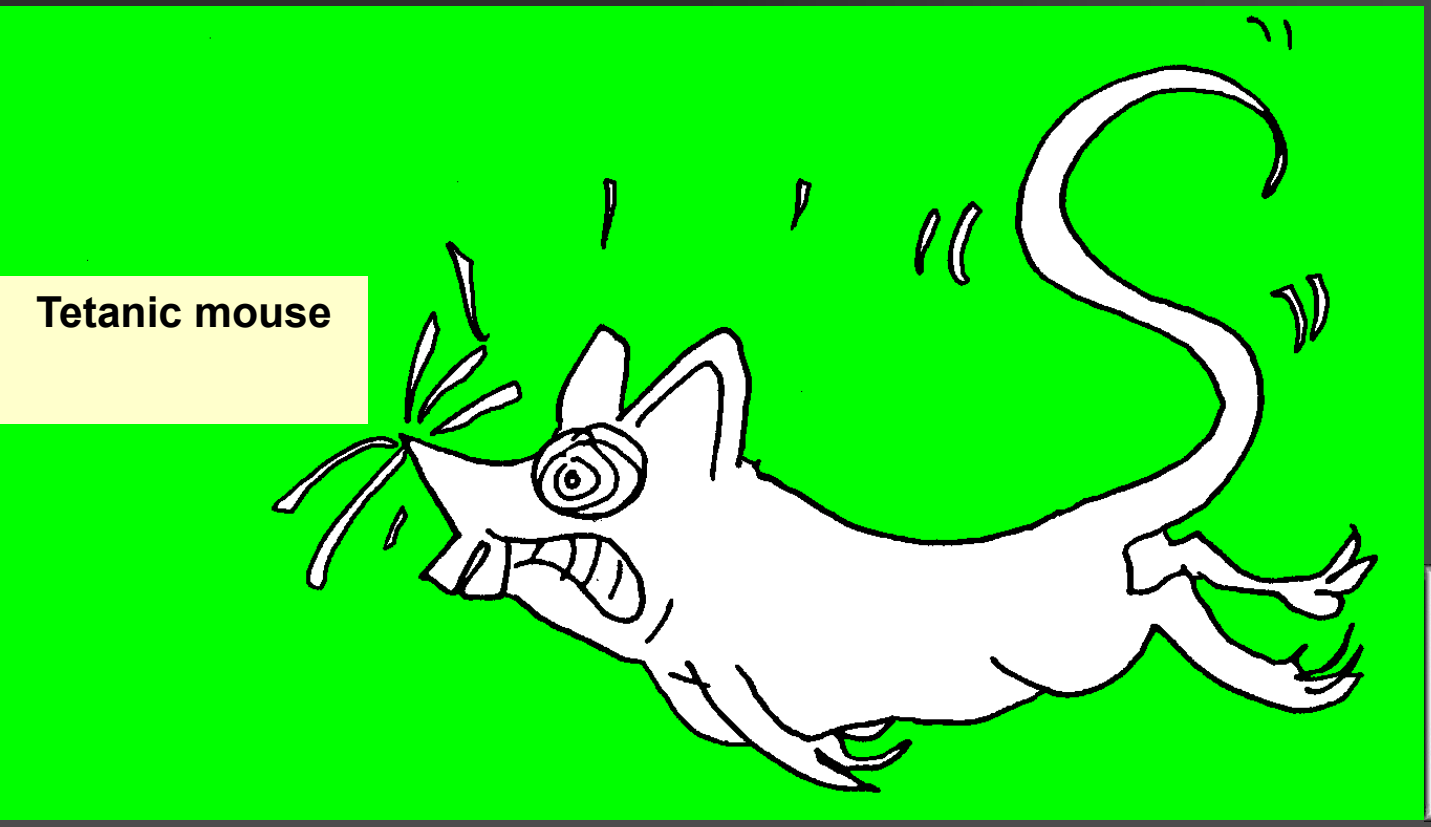
- Animal experiment is used in tetanus and botulism. In tetanus mouse is spastic, in botulism we can see pareses.

Tetanic mouse

microvet.arizona.edu

Toxin detection using animal experiment

- Look at the picture of tetanic mouse



Drawing by Petr Ondrovčík (1959–2007)

Graphically adapted.

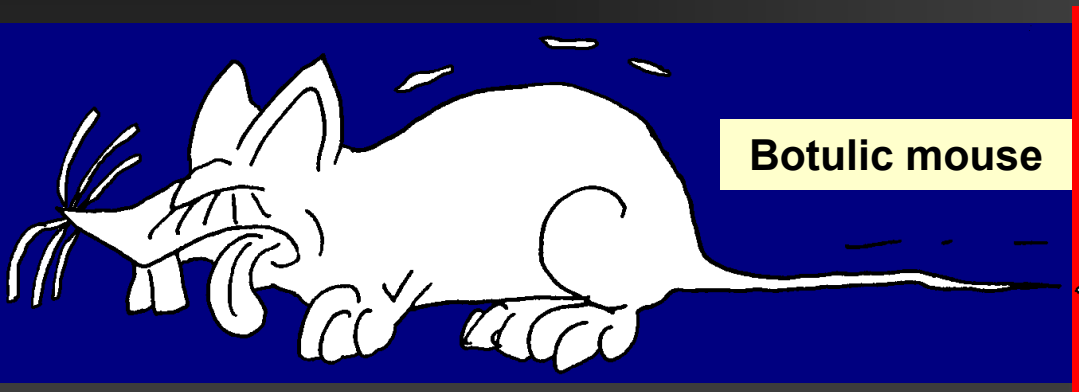
Backgound counterstained using not malachit green, but „Paint“ programme by Microsoft

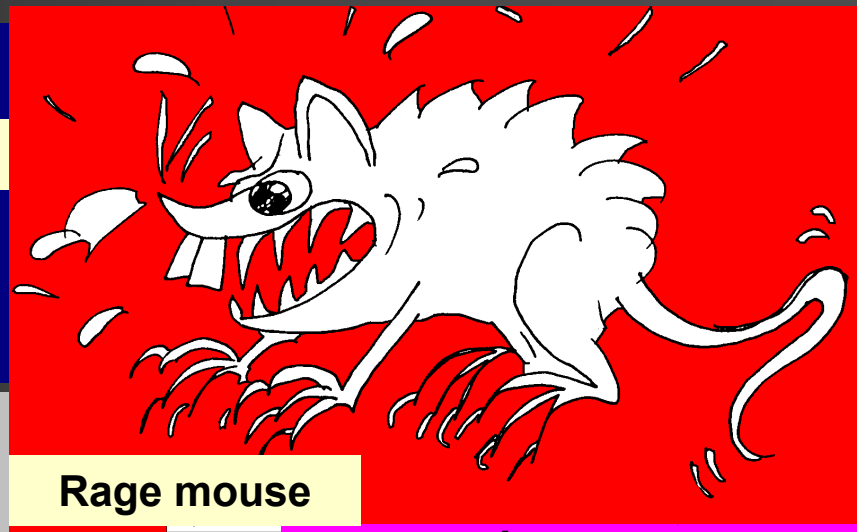
www.biotox.cz

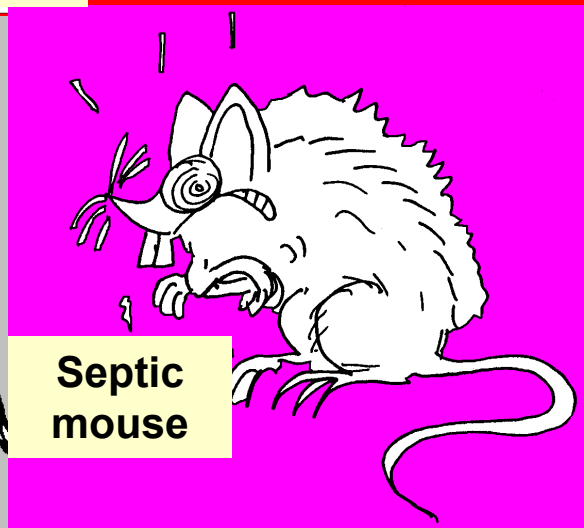
Opistotonus is typical both for mice and humans

Appearance of an experimental animal is observed also in other situations, e. g. botulism.

- In botulism, we can se pareses, not spasms







Detection of toxins III: Immunochromatographic tests

- Immunochromatographic tests are based on **binding of individual components**, simillarly as ELISA or immunofluorescence
- The most typical example is **pregnancy test**
- The principle was explained in **J09** practical session. It is mostly used for ***Clostridium difficile* toxin producing strains**

In positive case, both test and control strip is usually visible; in negative case, control strip is visible only

Principle (only for illustration)

Practical search for anaerobes (example in vaginal microbes)

- For vaginal swabs where anaerobic culture is requested we use VL agar with disks of vancomycin and amikacin. Usually, anaerobic bacteria grow between these two disks.
- Besides eventually present anaerobic flora, we can see a lot of **vaginal lactobacilli**, microaerofilic bacteria commonly found in vaginal swabs (and rather rarely present in normal aerobic culture)
- Our imperfect anaerobiosis enables growth of microaerofilic bacteria, as you can see.

The End

http://pharmacie.univ-lille2.fr