Medical Microbiology

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- Microorganisms are creatures that are not directly visible to the unaided eye.
- Viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa and some algae are all in this category

 The study of microorganisms (including bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites) which are of medical importance and are capable of causing diseases in human beings

Most can only be seen with the microscope!

Why they are important?

- Infection is one of the most important causes of mortality and morbidity in the population.
- Approximately 30% of patients who stay in the hospital are using antibiotics
- 1 in 10 patients acquires an infection whilst in hospital.

Distribution of microorganisms

- <u>Air</u>
- <u>Soil</u>
- <u>Water</u>
- <u>Animals</u>
- <u>Human body</u>

Where microorganisms?

Habitat	Approximate nuber of bacteria
Garden soil (surface)	$9.7 \times 10^{6}/g$
Garden soil (30 cm deep)	$5.7 \times 10^{5}/g$
Lakewater (shallow)	$10^{4}/m1$
Lakewater (deep)	10 ² /m1
Seawater	1.1×10^3 /ml
Human skin	10 ⁶ /sq cm
Human mouth	$10^{7}/ml$
Human intestine	$4 \times 10^{20}/g$
Milk	10 ³ to 10 ⁶ /ml
Cheese	10 ⁸ /g
Sunlit surface	few
Air	few

Microorganisms and Human Beings

- Beneficial activities: Most microbes are of benefit to human beings, some are necessary(nitrogen, carbon cycles, etc)
- Harmful activities: A portion of microbes cause diseases and are dangereous to human, and these are really that concern us in the study of medical microbiology,

Microorganisms and Human Beings



Microorganisms and Human Beings



- Microbiology is the biology of microorganisms.
- It is a bioscience for the study of the evolution, classification, morphology, physiology, genetics, ecology of microbes under certain definite conditions,
- The law of their life activities, and their interaction with human being, animals or plants as well as with natural environment.

- The medical microbiology is one of the essential basic scicences for medicine
- It is the study of biological characteristics of microorganisms and their relationships with human hosts

The Importance of Microbiology

- Medicine
- Food
- Industry
- Biotechnology
- Research
- Environment



Time Line of Microbiology





D B.C.



Classification of Organisms

- All living organisms are classified into:
 - Kingdom
 - Phyllum (family)
 - Genus
 - Species
- Organisms that can cause disease are many and varied and include:
 - Viruses
 - Bacteria
 - Fungi
 - Parasites

Relevance of Classification

- Different:
 - Diseases
 - Modes of transmission
 - Treatment-*e.g.* antibiotics don't cure viral infections

Viruses

- Small (50-300nm)
- Unable to replicate independently
- Invade host cells and use their cellular machinery to replicate
- Influenza, Chickenpox (varicella), Herpes, Rhinovirus, HIV/AIDS
- Often difficult to treat





Bacteria

- 500-800nm
- Capable of independent replication
- Cause of most infections seen in hospital
- Pneumonia, bacterial meningitis, cellulitis, UTI...
- Many different species
- Treated with antibiotics



Fungi

- Eukaryotes (as are humans!)
- Divided into yeasts & moulds
- Cause a range of diseases e.g.:
 - Thrush
 - Athletes foot
 - Invasive & allergic aspergillosis
- Complex, large organisms
- Many diseases are opportunistic





- Medical Microbiology studies are usually performed on human blood and body fluids.
- Medical Laboratory Technicians and Medical Laboratory Technologists perform the studies.
- Education level: 2 year for the technicians and 4 year for BS

- Microorganisms can cause disease in humans.
- Microbiologists determine the type of microorganism causing the disease and find a drug, usually an antibiotic, to inhibit the microorganism.
- Microbiologists continue to study the microorganisms through research to determine new antibiotics.

• Microorganisms are studied in

- clinical hospital laboratories,
- reference laboratories,
- research facilities.

• All laboratories post signs regarding safety.







• Safety hoods are used to avoid splashing and inhaling possible pathogens.





• A monitored refrigeration unit is essential for accurate results in microbiology.



• Reagents, such as those used in this strep screen, aid in diagnosis of disease.



• Blood cultures are incubated and monitored electronically for bacterial and fungus growth.





• High tech instruments are used to aid in the identification of microorganisms.



• What is growing on this agar plate?

