



Bacterial Growth & Physiology

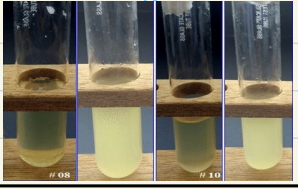


increase in the size & number of organisms

* Detection of bacterial growth *

a) on liquid medium ; Broth

increased turbidity (cloudiness)
bacterial cloudiness is due to bacterial cells dispersing through medium



b) Detection on Solid media

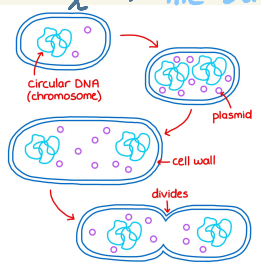
appearance of visible colonies
macroscopic !!



quantitative perspective on bacterial growth

after 20-30 rounds of binary fission, bacterial population can reach approx. 1 million cells

2^{20} ; the base 2 represent division of one cell into two cells & 20 signifies number of divisions



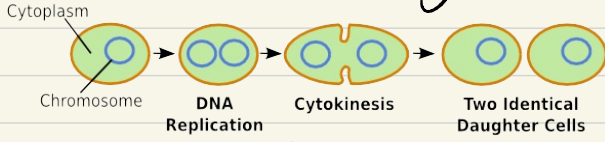
a single bacterium divides on a solid medium

after 20-30 divisions through binary fission a visible colony appears

which is the macroscopic result of many bacterial cells originating from a single bacterium

Generation time (or doubling time)

The time it takes for a bacterial cell to undergo division & double its population



V. cholerae

fast generation time

13 mins

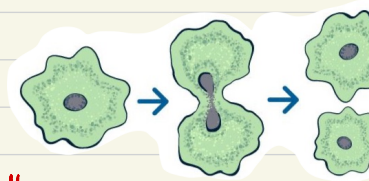
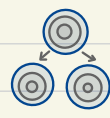
meaning it can double its population in this short period

M. Tuberculosis

very slow; 24 hours

slow rate of division

Bacterial reproduction / binary fission

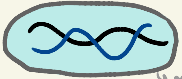


a single bacterial cell divides to produce two genetically identical daughter cells

Steps

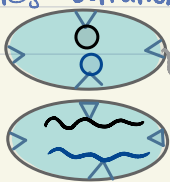
5 cell separation
Producing two identical daughter cells

1 Elongation of the bacterial DNA. This process occurs in a single direction, ensuring daughter cells will be the same size



made linear for simplification

2 Separation of the 2 strands each ssDNA becomes attached to mesosome, the enzyme facilitates separation of Ds into ss



mesosome: a structure within bacterial cell that provides a site for enzymatic activity

3 Separate ssDNA & become dsDNA each ssDNA serves as a template to synthesize complementary strand



4 Formation of division septum The bacterial mb & Peptidoglycan cell wall begin to grow inward creating a septum



septal PG is hydrolyzed

→ it's artificial!! (specifically formulated to mimic natural conditions)

{ Bacterial culture media } → For bacterial growth in vitro, a suitable culture medium must provide essential nutrients

↳ Bacterial growth outside biological environment

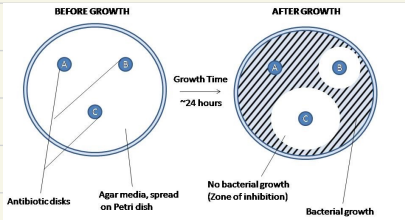
→ Purpose? to determine if a patient has a bacterial infection

1 Study properties of bacteria → characteristics help in identifying & differentiating bacterial species

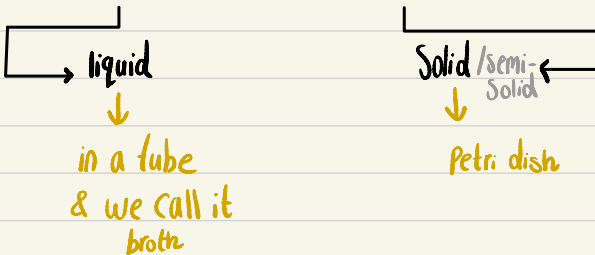
2 Isolation & diagnosis (causative agent)
allowing specific colonies to grow → identifying specific type of bacteria responsible for infection

3 Prepare vaccine & other products → for ex. *S. pyogenes* can be used in anticoagulants

4 Selecting proper antibiotic → identifying most effective antibiotic for treating bacterial infection

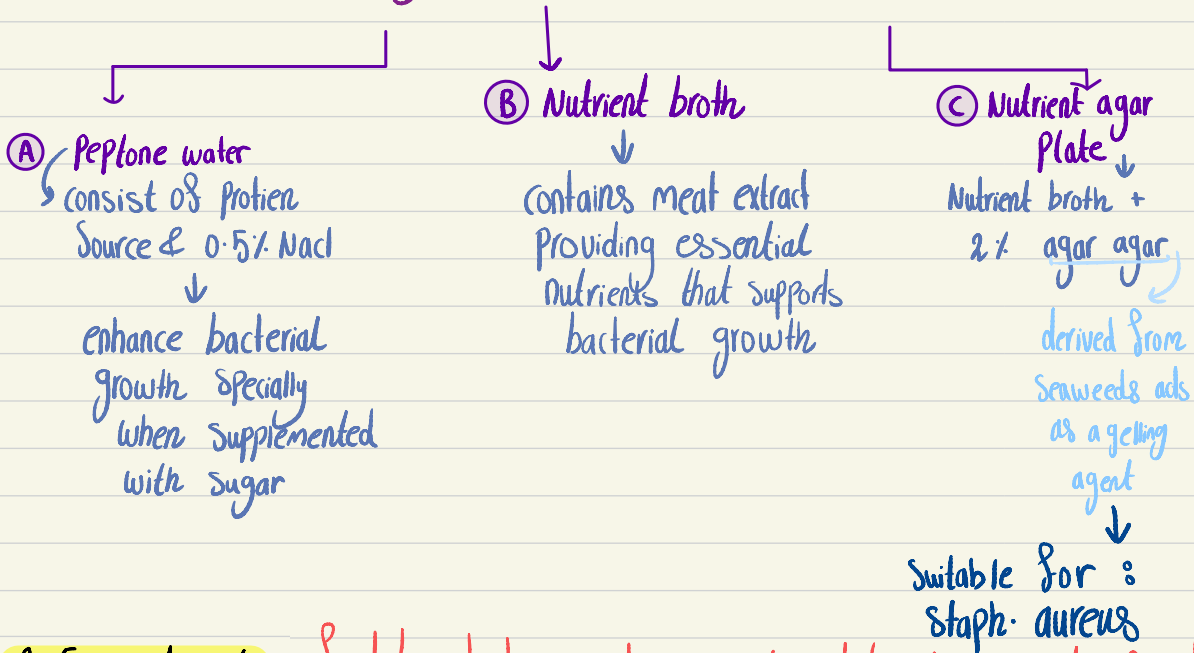


Classification of media

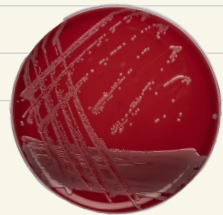
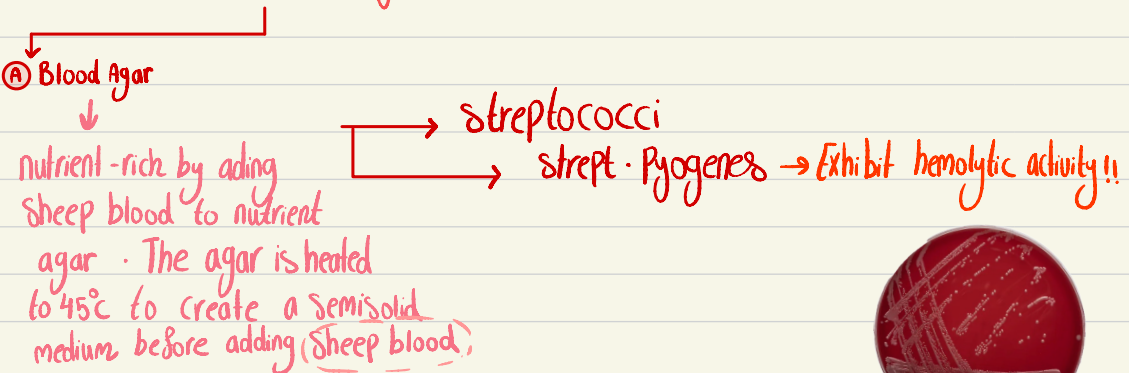


Types of media

1. Simple media → Serve as the basic nutrient sources required by most bacteria for growth, they provide minimal ingredients necessary for bacteria to thrive in a lab setting



2. Enriched media : Fastidious bacteria → have complex nutritional requirements & need Blood & Serum to grow



→ Hemolysis on a blood agar



(A) complete (Beta) hemolysis :

1. Staphylococcus aureus
2. Streptococcus pyogenes

(B) Partial (alpha) hemolysis

1. Streptococcus viridans
2. Pneumococci

(C) No hemolysis (gamma)

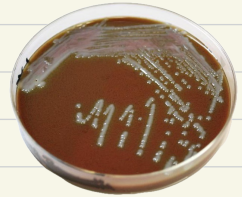
↓
Enterococci

<https://questions.widenex.com/3ee7f4b3-b4b7-4e34-8151-054397a60801>

← Quiz yourself !!

Enriched media (B) chocolate agar

Prepared by heating nutrient agar to 100°C & then adding blood



The high temperature causes hemoglobin in RBCs to breakdown into hematin → which gives medium its characteristic brown color

Haemophilus

Neisseria

3. Selective media → Specialized types of growth media used to cultivate specific microorganisms while suppressing growth of others.

This is achieved by adding certain chemicals, dyes, antibiotics or other compounds that inhibit the growth of unwanted microorganisms, thus allowing only the desired species or group of organisms to thrive

Löwenstein Jensen medium

- isolating Mycobacterium Tuberculosis
- selective agent here is Malachite green which inhibits non-mycobacterial organisms



Blood tellurite agar

- selective for C. diphtheriae
- inhibiting other bacteria



4. Differential media → combine selective properties with indicators to allow specific organisms to grow while revealing differences between bacteria by a visible indicator change

MacConkey's Agar: differentiate bacteria that can ferment lactose from those that cannot

- components → Bile salts: selective for Enterobacteria
- lactose: Test sugar
- peptone: source of nitrogen for bacterial growth
- Natural red: pH indicator

* Bacteria that ferment lactose produce acid, turning medium pink

* Non-lactose fermenters produce no acid & appear pale or yellow

Mannitol Salt Agar :

differentiates staphococcus based on their ability to ferment mannitol

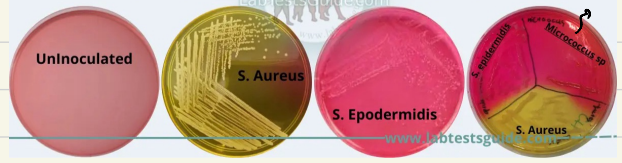


components :

* High salt conc. (7.5% NaCl)

* Mannitol : fermentable sugar

* Phenol red: A PH indicator that turns yellow in acidic conditions



Thiosulfate - citrate - Bile - sucrose (TCBS)

differentiating **Vibrio** species

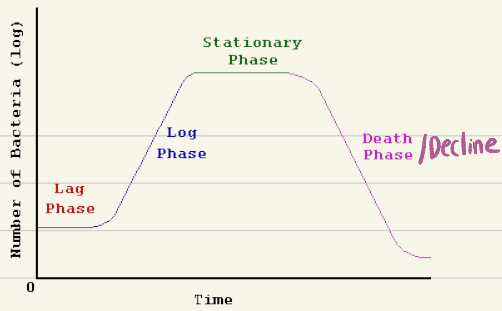
* Thiosulfate * Bile * sucrose * citrate * Bromothymol blue → PH indicator

* Vibrio cholera : ferment sucrose, producing acidic by-products → turns yellow

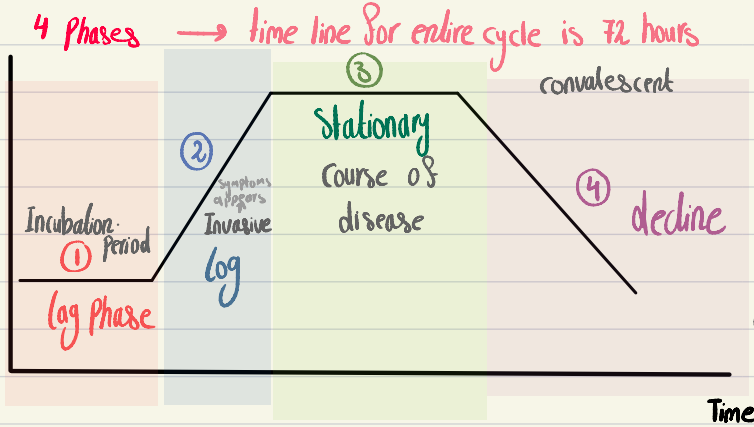
* Vibrio Parahaemolyticus : medium remains green

Bacterial growth curve

if a small number of bacteria are inoculated into a liquid nutrient medium they experience 4 phases



* of bacteria



analogy between bacterial growth curve & progression of disease in human body

① lag phase: bacteria adapt to new environment
 focus on synthesizing essential enzymes & proteins needed for growth
 number of bacteria remain constant but cells increase in size

② Log Phase: bacteria start rapid cell division → exponential growth in population
 "golden phase": rate of bacterial growth is at its peak; antibiotics are most effective here
 Due to cell division, individual cell size may decrease

③ Stationary phase: resources become limited & waste products accumulate, rate of cell division slows down & becomes equal to rate of cell death → stable population size

④ decline phase: nutrients are almost entirely depleted & waste products accumulated to toxic levels
 oxygen & other resources are exhausted → ↓ in * of cells

Bacterial growth requirements → A) Nutrition B) Gaseous C) Temp. & pH

A) Nutrition - Maintenance of bacterial growth

Autotrophic
Self-nutrition

utilize simple inorganic substances like CO_2 & ammonium
utilize simple inorganic substances [CO_2 ↓ carbon, ammonium ↓ nitrogen] into complex organic material

[Saprophytic]

No medical importance → They don't rely on infecting a host for growth

Heterotrophic

different nutrition require complex preformed organic substances like sugars & proteins

Due to their dependency on a host, these bacteria can invade the host's tissues leading to infections & diseases

↓
medically significant

B) Gaseous requirements - O_2 requirements - 5 groups

- 1) obligate aerobes
- 2) obligate anaerobes
- 3) facultative anaerobes
- 4) Micro-aerobic
- 5) Aero-tolerant

Respiration

break down of glucose - catabolism - release of Energy

Aerobic

↓
requires O_2
yields a high amount of energy

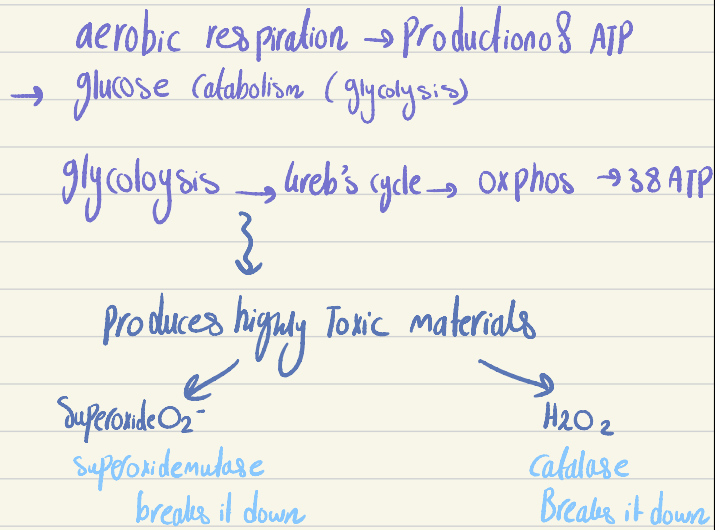
Anaerobic

↓
without oxygen

1. obligate aerobes

- * depends on presence of oxygen for growth
- * without $O_2 \rightarrow$ no growth or survival

ex. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*



2. obligate anaerobes ^{$\rightarrow O_2$ is toxic to them!!!}

- * no growth in O_2 presence
 - * growth in absence of O_2
- Ex. *Bacteroides fragilis*

4 ATP

* lack superoxidase dimutase & catalase

* organism use inorganic molecules

Nitrite (NO_2^-) Sulfate CO_2

To carry e^- in ETC

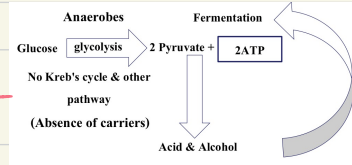
this process generates ATP but less efficient than aerobic

13 ATP from ETC + 4 ATP from glycolysis

3. Facultative anaerobes → originally lives in environments with oxygen. However, they are adaptable & can survive in low or no O_2

presence of O_2
 ↓
 ↑ generate a high rate of ATP → ↑ increased growth rate

Absence of O_2
 ↓
 Switch to anaerobic pathways, such as fermentation to produce energy



after glycolysis, Pyruvate is further metabolized in fermentation process leading to production of lactic acid & alcohol

when O_2 is absent, facultative anaerobes rely on glycolysis to break down glucose into Pyruvate producing a net gain of 2 ATP molecules per glucose

no Krebs cycle or ETC

4. Micro-aerophilic

presence of O_2
 ↓
 No growth !!!

Ex. campylobacter & Helicobacter

low O_2 conditions (2-10%)

growth ✓✓

low level of O_2

grow without accumulating toxic levels of O_2^- & H_2O_2

Because they produce toxic by-products

Superoxide (O_2^-) H_2O_2

low levels of superoxide dismutase & Catalase

5. Aero-tolerant anaerobes

Ex. *Clostridium perfringens*

low O_2 conditions
can survive in environments with low oxygen, they possess superoxide dismutase ✓✓

absence of O_2

grow and carry out typical metabolic processes ✓

uses inorganic molecules as the final e^- acceptor

Growth requirement: CO_2 requirements

Standard CO_2 requirement (0.03%)

sufficient for growth for most bacteria

CO_2 (5-10%)

requires higher level of CO_2

Neisseria & brucella

Growth requirement: PH

Neutral (7.2-7.4)

* Most bacteria
* called Neutrophils

alkaline (PH=9)

Ex. *Vibrio cholerae*

acidic (PH=4)

Ex. *Lactobacilli*
Acidophiles

Growth requirement: temperature

Mesophilic

(20-45)

Most bacteria

Psychrophilic

(0-15)

thermophilic

(55-65)

Bacterial Growth & Physiology

Bacterial Growth

- Definition
 - Increase in size and number
 - Measured by turbidity in fluid media or colonies on solid media
- Colony Formation
 - Binary fission
 - Visible colonies after 20-30 divisions
 - Example: single bacterium to colony
- Generation Time
 - Varies by species
 - V. cholerae*: 13 min
 - M. tuberculosis*: 24 hrs

Bacterial Reproduction

- Binary Fission
 - Steps
 - DNA elongation
 - DNA strand separation
 - Formation of new dsDNA
 - Septum formation
 - Cell separation into daughter cells

Culture Media

- Purpose
 - Study bacterial properties
 - Isolation & diagnosis
 - Vaccine preparation
 - Antibiotic selection
- Types
 - Simple Media
 - Peptone water, nutrient broth, nutrient agar
 - Enriched Media
 - Blood agar, chocolate agar
 - Supports fastidious bacteria
 - Selective Media
 - Allows specific bacterial growth
 - Examples: Lowenstein-Jensen for *M. tuberculosis*
 - Differential Media
 - Differentiates bacteria by visible changes
 - Examples: MacConkey's agar

Bacterial Growth Curve

- Lag Phase
 - Bacteria adapt, no increase in number
- Log Phase
 - Rapid cell division
 - Golden phase for growth
- Stationary Phase
 - Balance of growth and death
- Decline Phase
 - Nutrient depletion, bacterial death

Growth Requirements

- Nutritional
 - Autotrophic
 - Uses simple inorganic materials
 - Heterotrophic
 - Requires complex organic substances
- Gaseous
 - Oxygen requirements
 - Obligate aerobes, obligate anaerobes
 - Facultative anaerobes, micro-aerophilic, aero-tolerant
- CO₂ & pH
 - pH: 7.2-7.4 for most bacteria
 - CO₂ for specific bacteria (e.g., *Neisseria*)
- Temperature
 - Mesophilic (20-45°C)
 - Psychrophilic (0-15°C)
 - Thermophilic (55-65°C)

Bacteria	Characteristics/Notes	Media or Conditions
V. cholerae	Rapid division time (13 minutes)	Thiosulfate-Citrate-Bile-Sucrose (TCBS) Agar
M. tuberculosis	Very slow division time (24 hours)	Lowenstein Jensen medium
Streptococcus pyogenes	Beta-hemolytic	Blood agar
Streptococcus viridans	Alpha-hemolytic	Blood agar
Staphylococcus aureus	Beta-hemolytic, can ferment mannitol	Blood agar, Mannitol salt agar
Staphylococcus epidermidis	Cannot ferment mannitol	Mannitol salt agar
Enterococci	Gamma-hemolytic	Blood agar
Neisseria	Fastidious, requires enriched media, capnophilic (5-10% CO ₂)	Chocolate agar
Haemophilus	Fastidious, requires enriched media	Chocolate agar
Corynebacterium diphtheriae	Grows on selective medium	Blood tellurite agar
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	Obligate aerobe	General media, requires oxygen
Bacteroides fragilis	Obligate anaerobe	Grows in absence of oxygen
Campylobacter	Microaerophilic (low oxygen requirement)	Requires reduced oxygen levels
Helicobacter	Microaerophilic (low oxygen requirement)	Requires reduced oxygen levels
Clostridium perfringens	Aero-tolerant anaerobe	Can tolerate low oxygen
Brucella	Capnophilic (requires increased CO ₂)	Requires 5-10% CO ₂
Lactobacilli	Acidophilic, prefers acidic environments	Prefers low pH (around 4)
Vibrio cholerae	Alkaliphilic, prefers basic environments	Prefers high pH (around 9)