



MED437  
KING SAUD UNIVERSITY



# Microbiology – Lecture 6

## Gram Positive and Gram Negative Bacteria

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TEAM 437

**Red: important**

**Green : doctor notes**

**Black : original slides**

**Grey: extra information**

In this link, you will find any corrections or notes unmentioned in the team's work. Please check the link below frequently.

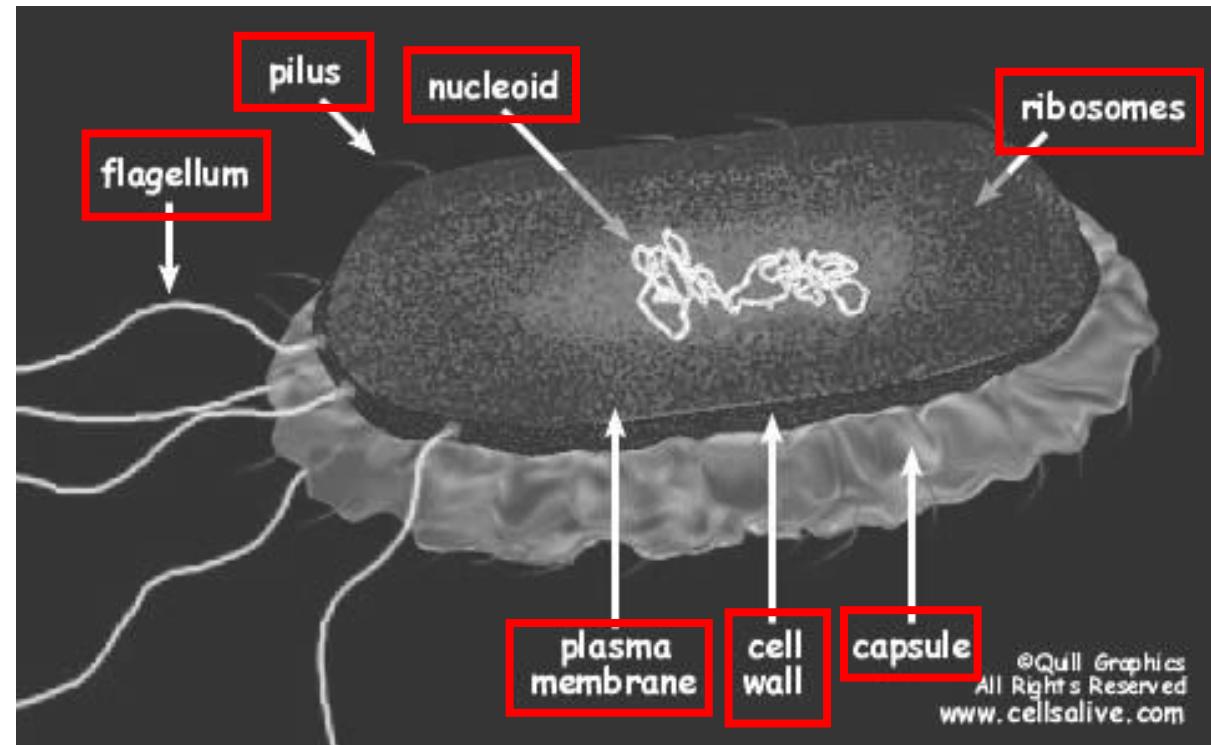
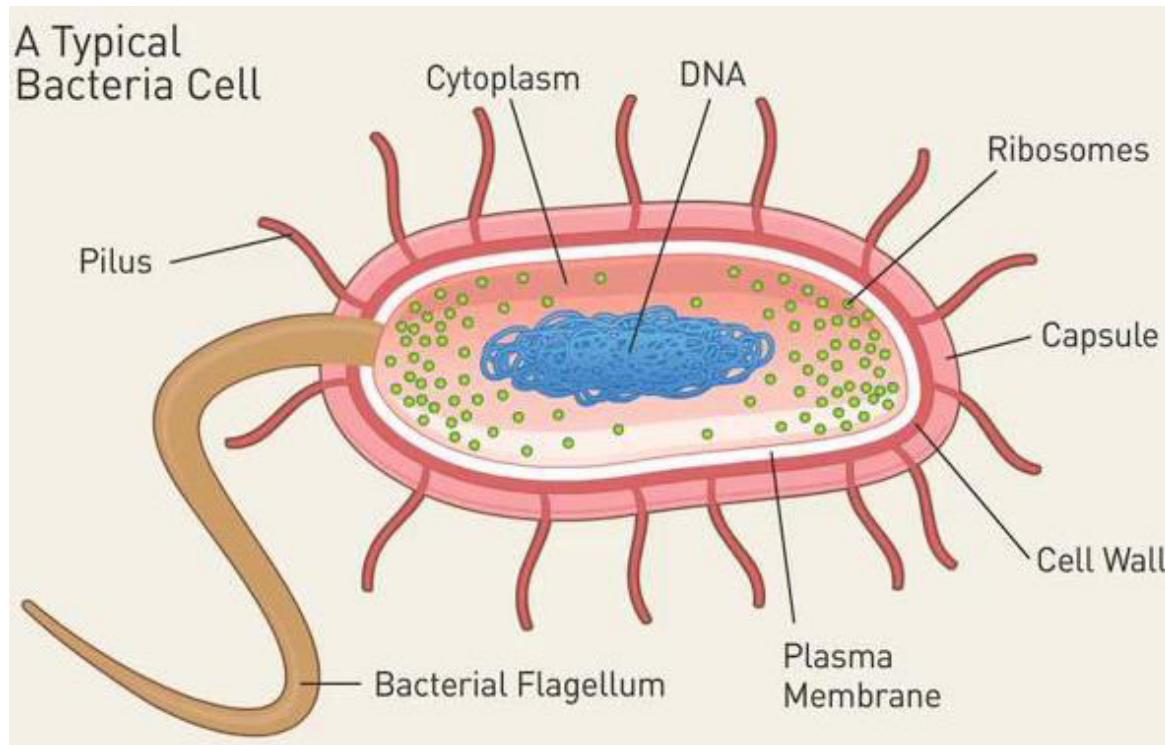
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# Objectives

1. Know the general basic characteristics of bacteria
2. Differentiate between gram positive and gram negative bacteria characteristics.
3. Know the classes and groups of gram positive bacteria, cocci and bacilli (rods)
4. Know the common identification characteristic of these groups
5. Know the common infections and diseases caused by these organisms and the antibiotics used for their treatment
6. Know the classes and groups of gram negative bacteria, cocci and bacilli (rods)
7. Know the common identification methods for These organisms
8. Know the commonest infectious and diseases caused by these bacteria and the antibiotics used for their treatment



# Bacterial cells general characteristics



[webpage with more info](#)

[Video with more info, skip to 1:27](#)



# Gram stain

- ✓ Developed in 1884 by the Danish physician Hans Christian Gram

An important tool in bacterial taxonomy (the branch of science concerned with classification), distinguishing so-called **Gram-positive bacteria**, which remain **colored** after the staining procedure, from **Gram-negative bacteria**, which **do not retain dye** and need to be counter-stained.

- ✓ Can be applied to **pure cultures** of bacteria or to **clinical specimens**

[Video for more info](#)

# Cell wall

## Gram positive cell wall

- Consists of:
  - 1- **Thick**, homogenous sheath of peptidoglycan 20-80 nm thick
  - 2- Tightly bound **acidic polysaccharides**, including **teichoic acid** and **lipoteichoic acid**
  - 3- cell membrane

- **Retain crystal violet** and stain **PURPLE** or **BLUE**

## Gram negative cell wall

- Consists of:
  - 1- An outer membrane containing lipopolysaccharide (LPS)
  - 2- Thin shell of peptidoglycan
  - 3- Periplasmic space (between the cell wall & plasma membrane)
  - 4- Inner membrane

- **Lose crystal violet** and stain **PINK** or **RED** from safranin counterstain

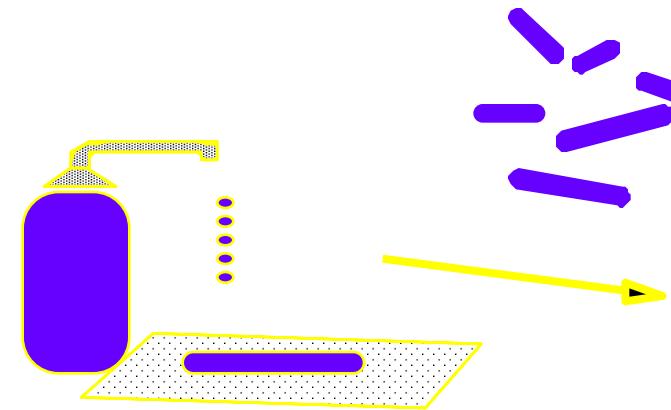


# The Gram Stain

[Video for more info](#)

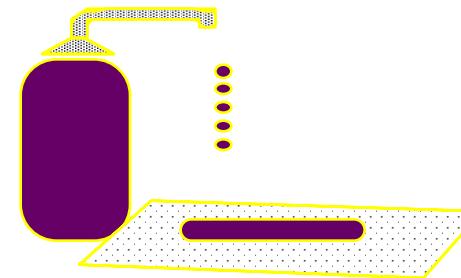
Stain the Peptidoglycan in BLUE color. ALL bacteria will be stained with the crystal violet.

1  
**Crystal violet**



يثبت الصبغة

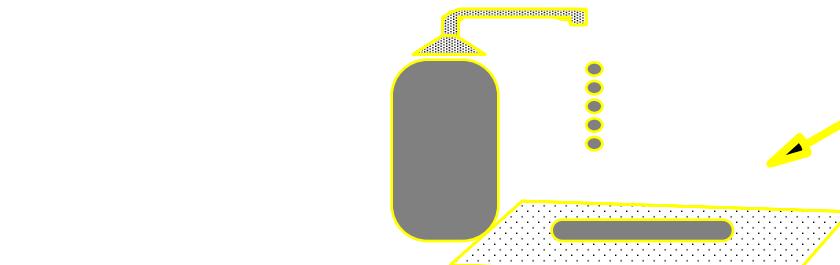
2 **Gram's iodine**



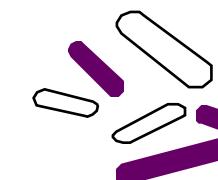
تحفظ هذه البكتيريا بلونها بعد أن تصبغت بصبغة جرام مهما تعرضت لأي مادة كيميائية، فهي كالكريستال قوية وصلبة  
Team 435

Red Stain

3  
**Decolorise with acetone**

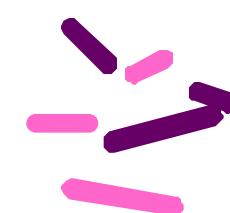
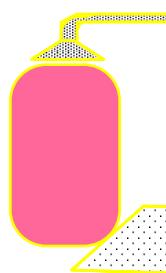


نخف الصبغة بکحول



Alcohol: to extract the Crystal Violet stain from the peptidoglycan.  
Gram -ve: extracted easily.  
Gram +ve: hard to extract.

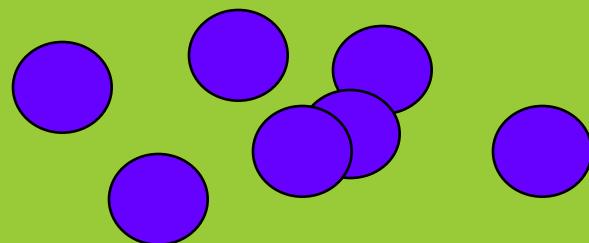
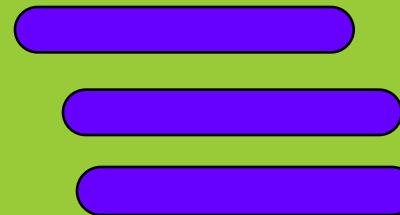
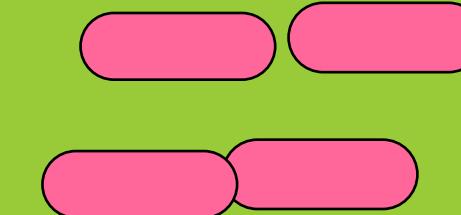
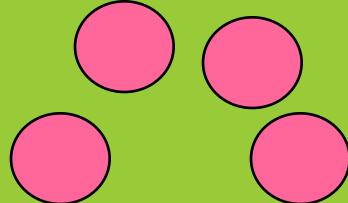
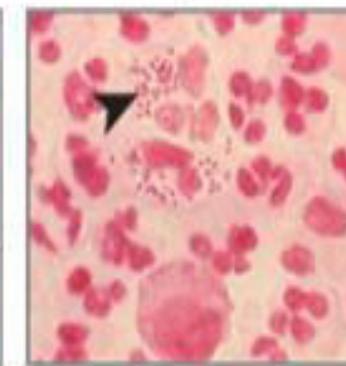
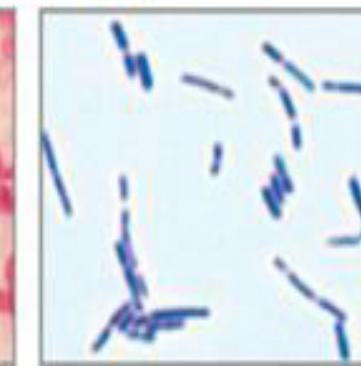
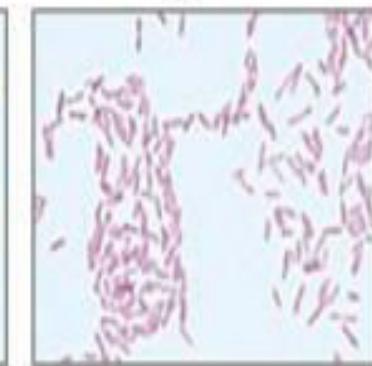
4  
**Counterstain (only for gram -) with e.g. methyl red**



**Safranin counterstain**

حتى لا تنسى تذكر أن:  
الزعفران لونه أحمر و نوع هذه  
البكتيريا تصبغ باللون الأحمر



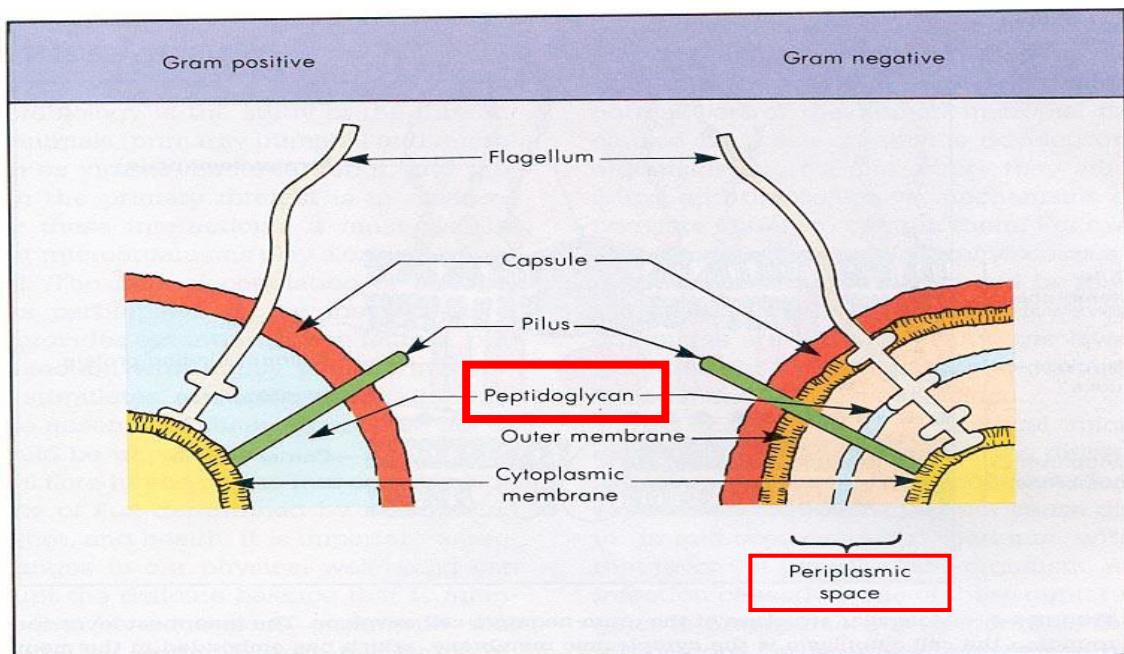
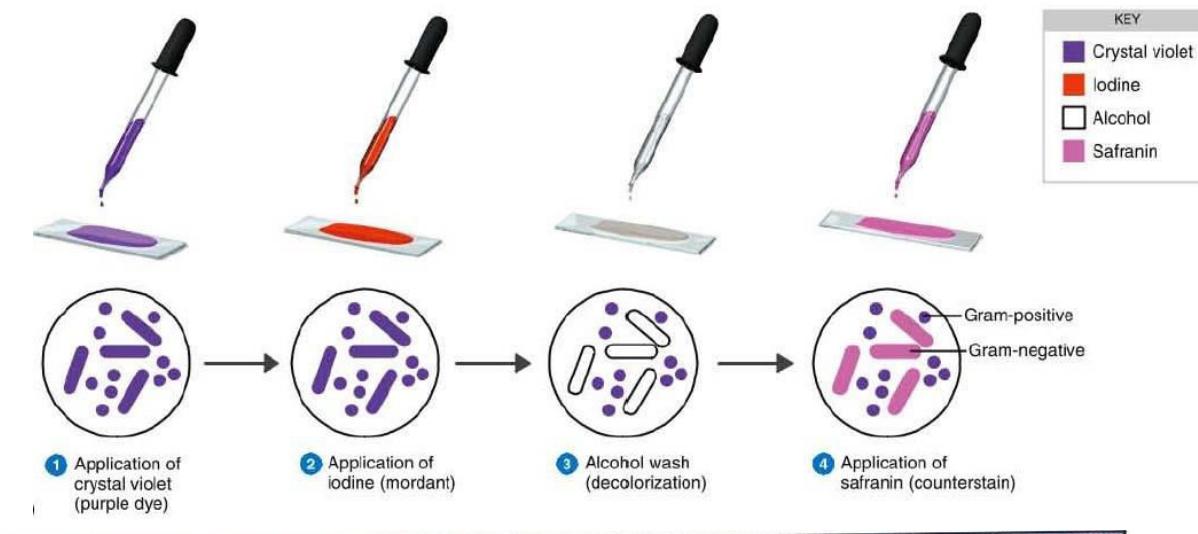
**Gram-positive cocci****Gram-positive rods****Gram-negative rods****Gram-negative cocci****Gram-positive cocci****Gram-negative cocci****Gram-positive bacilli****Gram-negative bacilli**

Color and shape of the cells help classify which type of bacteria are present.

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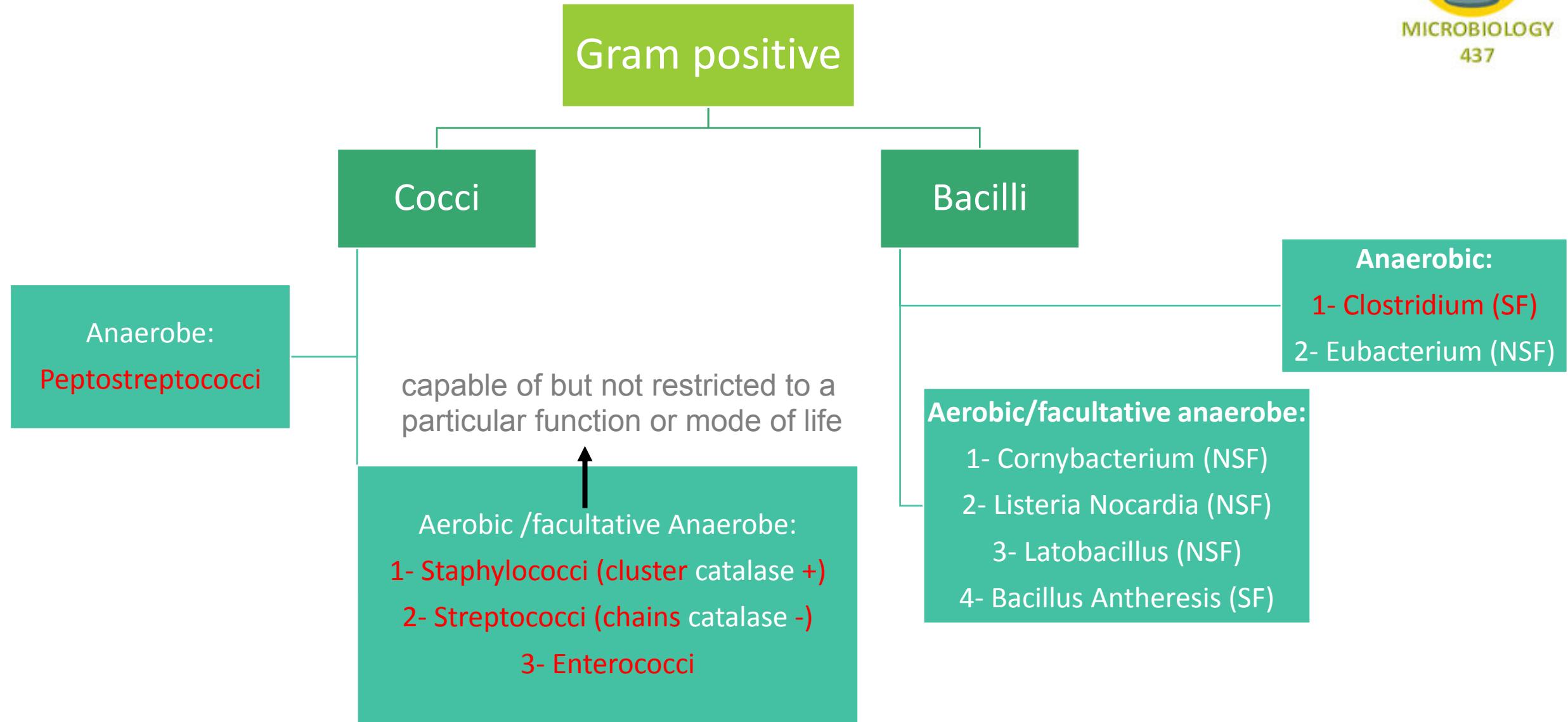


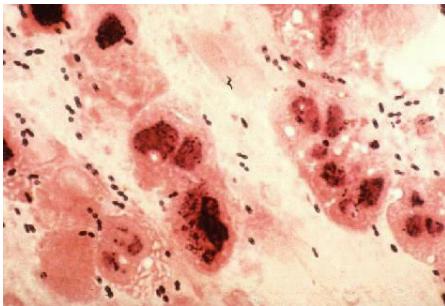
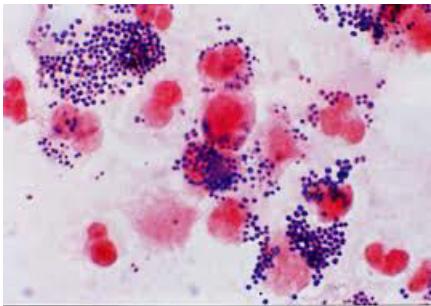
# The Gram Stain



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	Microscopic Appearance of Cell	Chemical Reaction in Cell Wall (very magnified view)
Step	Gram (+)      Gram (-)	Gram (+)      Gram (-)
1. Crystal violet		 Both cell walls affix the dye
2. Gram's iodine		 Dye crystals trapped in wall
3. Alcohol	 Acetone a type of alcohol	 No effect of iodine
4. Safranin (red dye)		 Cell wall partially dissolved, loses dye
		Red dye has no effect
		Red dye stains the colorless cell





# Gram positive Cocci



Catalase: Biochemical test, to differentiate between streptococci and staphylococci.

## 1- **Staphylococci**

**Catalase-positive**

Gram-positive cocci in clusters

**A) *Staphylococcus aureus*:**

*coagulase positive* most important pathogen

**B) *Staphylococcus epidermidis*:**

Normal flora on the skin.

other *coagulase negative*

staphylococci ex, saprophyticus

## 2- **Streptococci**

**Catalase-negative**

Gram-positive cocci in **chains or pairs**

*Examples:*

*Strep. Pyogenes*- Beta hemolytic **Most clinically important of this group**

*Strep. Pneumoniae*- Alpha hemolytic **and causes pneumonia and meningitis**

*Viridans streptococci* -Gamma hemolytic



## 3- **Enterococci faecalis**



# Streptococcus

## 1- Streptococci viridans

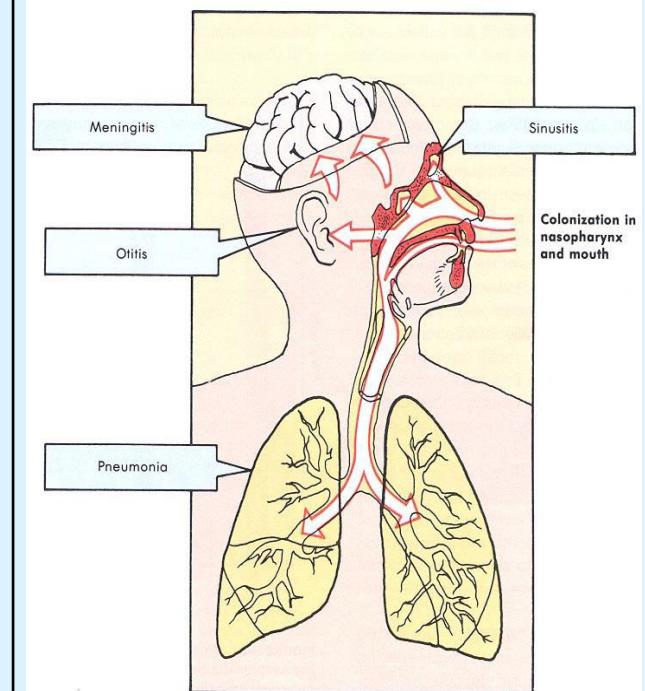
oral flora -infective endocarditis (infection of the heart)

## 2- Streptococci pyogenes divided by type of haemolysis

### Group A, beta hemolytic strep

- Pharyngitis(most common) , cellulitis
- rheumatic fever: (Autoimmune Disease)
  - a) fever
  - b) migrating polyarthritis
  - c) carditis
  - d) immunologic cross reactivity
    - acute glomerulonephritis (in the kidney)
      - a) edema, hypertension, hematuria
      - b) antigen-antibody complex deposition

## 3- Streptococci pneumoniae Can cause meningitis



# Gram Positive Bacilli:



Anaerobic forming Example:

1- **Clostridium tetani (C. Tetani)** causes:

Tetanus

2- **Clostridium perfringe (C. perfringens)** causes:

Gas gangrene

3- **Clostridium botulinum (C. Botulinum)** causes:

- a) botulism
- b) Descending weakness-->paralysis
- c) diplopia, dysphagia-->respiratory failure

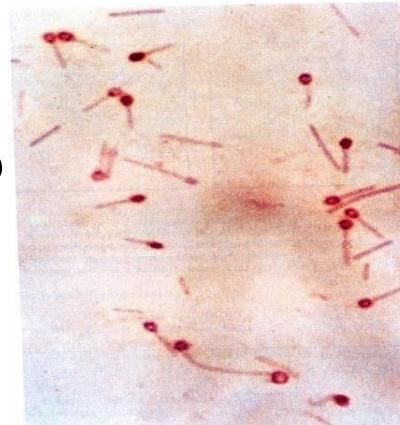
4- **C. diphtheriae** causes:

Fever, pharyngitis, **cervical LAD**

thick, gray, adherent membrane

sequelae-->airway obstruction, myocarditis

- 1- Non spore forming
- 2- Spore forming which has the following:



Aerobic spore forming Example:

**Bacillus anthracis**, causes anthracis

*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Neisseria meningitis* looks identical –kidney shaped-

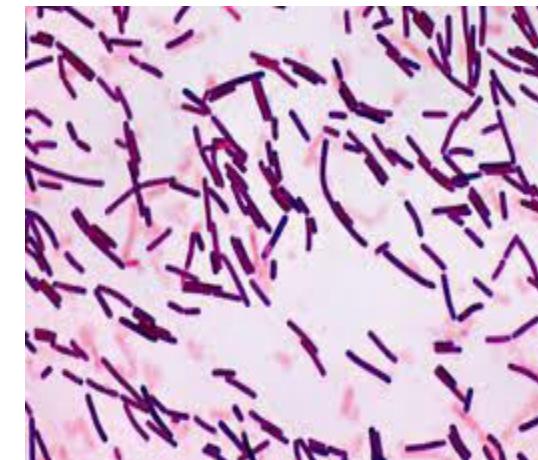


## Gram-Negative Cocci

<b><i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i></b>	<b><i>Neisseria meningitis</i></b> (it is considered a potential pathogen in the oropharynx)	<b><i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i></b>
The Gonococcus	1- The <b>Meningococcus</b> . 2- Both Gram-negative intracellular <b>diplococci</b> .	

## Gram-Negative Rods

<b>Enteric Bacteria</b> they ferment sugars most important are:	<b>Fastidious GNRs</b>	<b>Anaerobic GNRs</b>
1- <b>E. coli</b> (normal flora but can cause diseases) 2- <b>Salmonella</b> (not normal flora “exogenous”) 3- Shigella 4- Yersinia and Klebsiella pneumonia 5- Proteus	1- <b>Bordetella pertussis</b> 2- <b>Haemophilus influenzae</b> 3- <b>Campylobacter jejuni</b> 4- <b>Helicobacter pylori</b> 5- <b>Legionella pneumophila</b>	1- <b>Bacteroides fragilis</b> 2- <b>Fusobacterium</b>





# Gram-Negative *Rods*

**Oxidase negative , non – fermentative** i.e. they do not ferment sugars e.g:

- Acinobacter species

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**Oxidase positive** comma shaped and also fermentative.

- The most important is **Vibrio cholerae** that causes cholera.  
**which is a disease characterized by:**
  - 1) Severe diarrhea.
  - 2) Dehydration.
- **Pseudomonas** that causes infection in Immunocompromised patients (**resistance to antibiotics**)



# Non-Gram-stainable bacteria

Spirochaetes	Chlamydia	Unusual gram-positives (Mycoplasmas)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cause syphilis</li><li>• Sexual transmitted</li></ul>	Obligate intra-cellular bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Smallest free-living organisms</li><li>- <b>No cell wall</b></li><li>- <i>M. pneumonia, M. genitalium</i></li></ul>



# Quiz and references

Which one of the following has periplasmic space?

- A)Gram positive cell wall
- B)Gram negative cell wall
- C)both
- D)none

Which one of the following is not gram positive bacteria?

- A)Staphylococci
- B)Streptococci
- C)Bacilli
- D)Mycobacterium TB

Oxidase positive bacteria have:

- A)comma shaped
- B)rods shaped
- C)oval shaped
- D)spiral shaped

Non-Gram-stainable bacteria are:

- A)Unusual gram-negative
- B)Usual gram-negative
- C)Unusual gram-positive
- D)Usual gram-positives

Mycoplasmas have:

- A)no cell wall
- B)thin cell wall
- C)thick cell wall

B  
D  
A  
C  
A



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لائقوا الإِنسان في الحياة على هذه الأرض من دون أن يعاونه النّاس ويقفوا معه.



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