

Microbiology

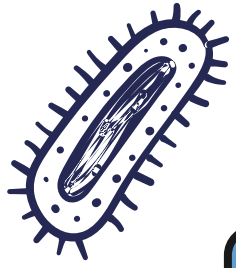
Modified 5

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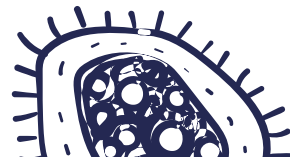
Date : Oct 2025





Lecture 3

Bacterial Growth & physiology

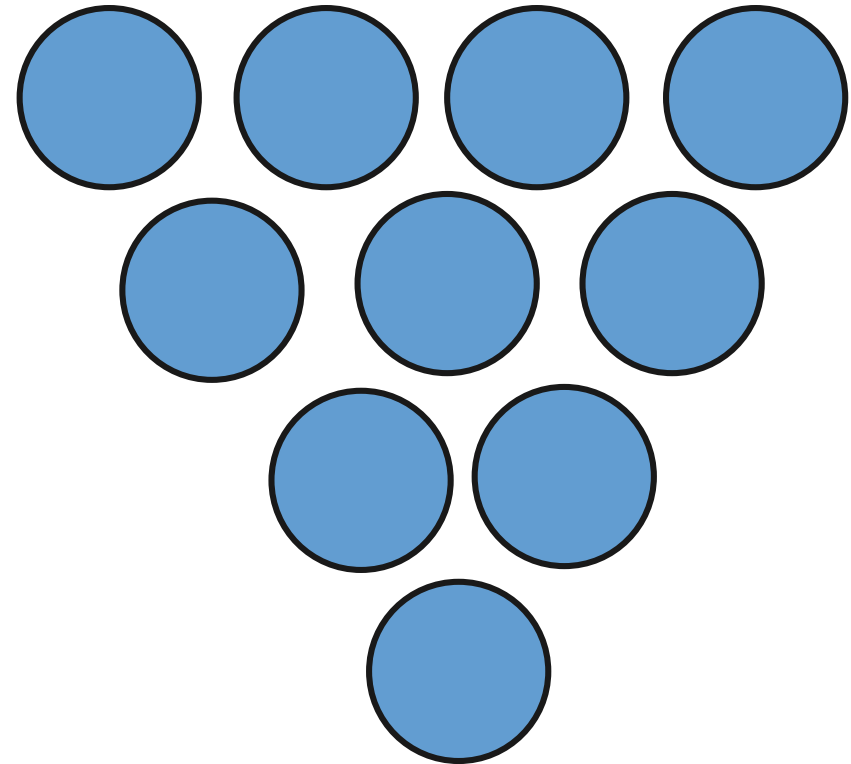
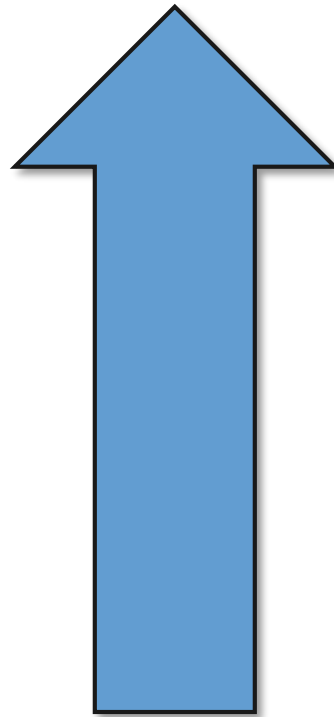
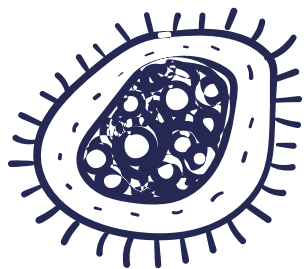


Bacterial Growth

- **Definitions**
- **B. Reproduction**
- **culture media**
 - A. Definition
 - B. Classification
 - C. Types
- **Bacterial growth curve**

Bacterial Growth: Definition

Bacterial growth: is defined as the increase in both **Size** & **Number** of organism

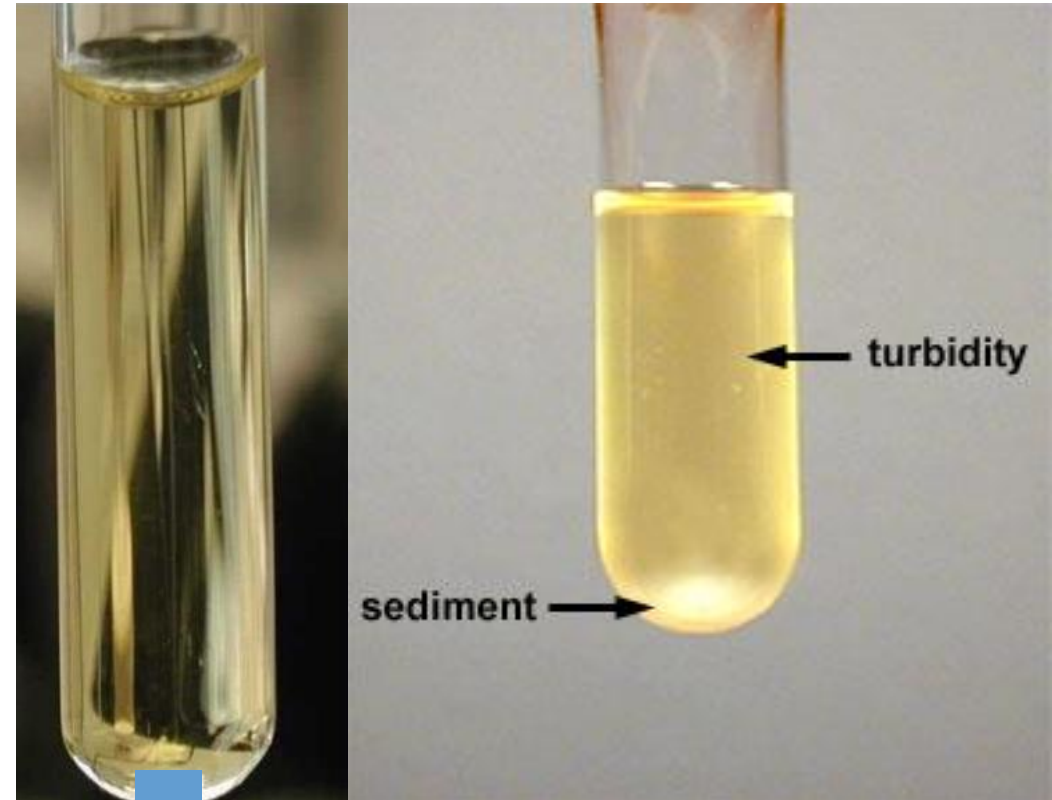


1) Bacterial Growth

Bacterial growth can be detected in two primary ways:

1. Turbidity of the fluid media

- If bacteria are cultured in a clear liquid broth and left for several hours, the broth will become **cloudy or turbid**, which indicates that **bacterial growth** has occurred.



1) Bacterial Growth

2) Colonies on solid media

(Macroscopic product)

- Colonies are referred to as macroscopic products because they are **visible** aggregates of bacteria that can be seen with the **naked eye**.



2) Colony (Macroscopic product)

Single bacterium

Cultured on solid media

After 20-30 division

By Binary fission

Colony



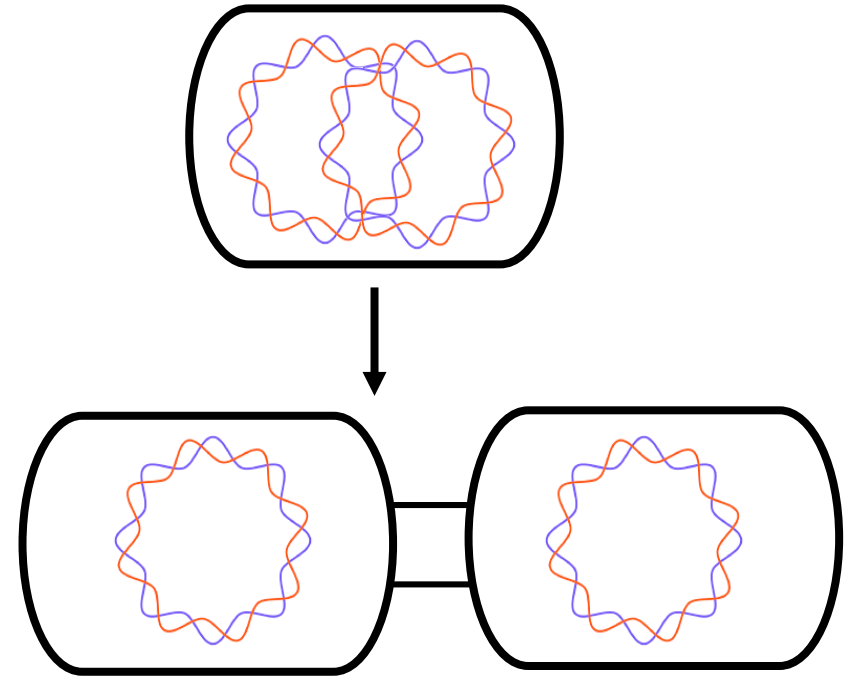
So the appearance of colony will be after 20-30 division of single bacterium

2) Colony

After 20–30 division

Binary fission

1 Million
(2^{20})

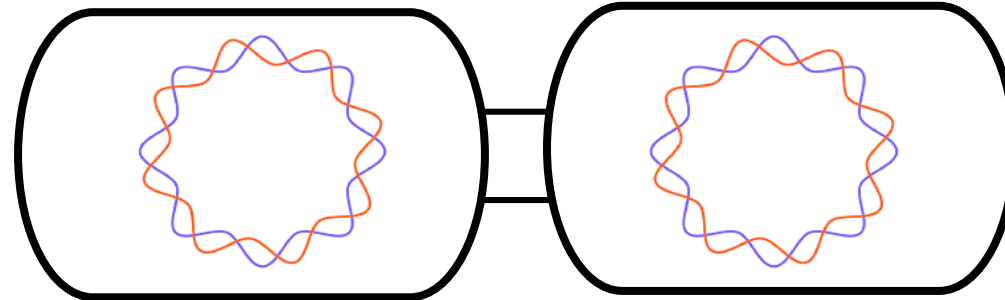
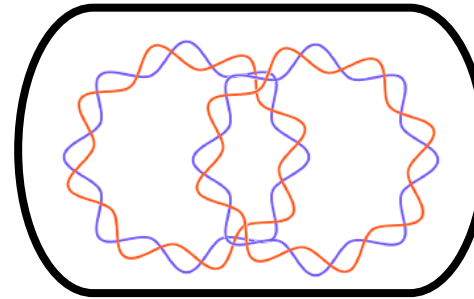


This exponential growth (2^n) occurs because each division yields two daughter cells:

- 1st division: 2 cells
- 2nd division: 4 cells
- 3rd division: 8 cells
- 4th division: 16 cells
- 5th division: 32 cells, and so on.

3) Generation time (doubling time)

13min (*V.cholerae*)

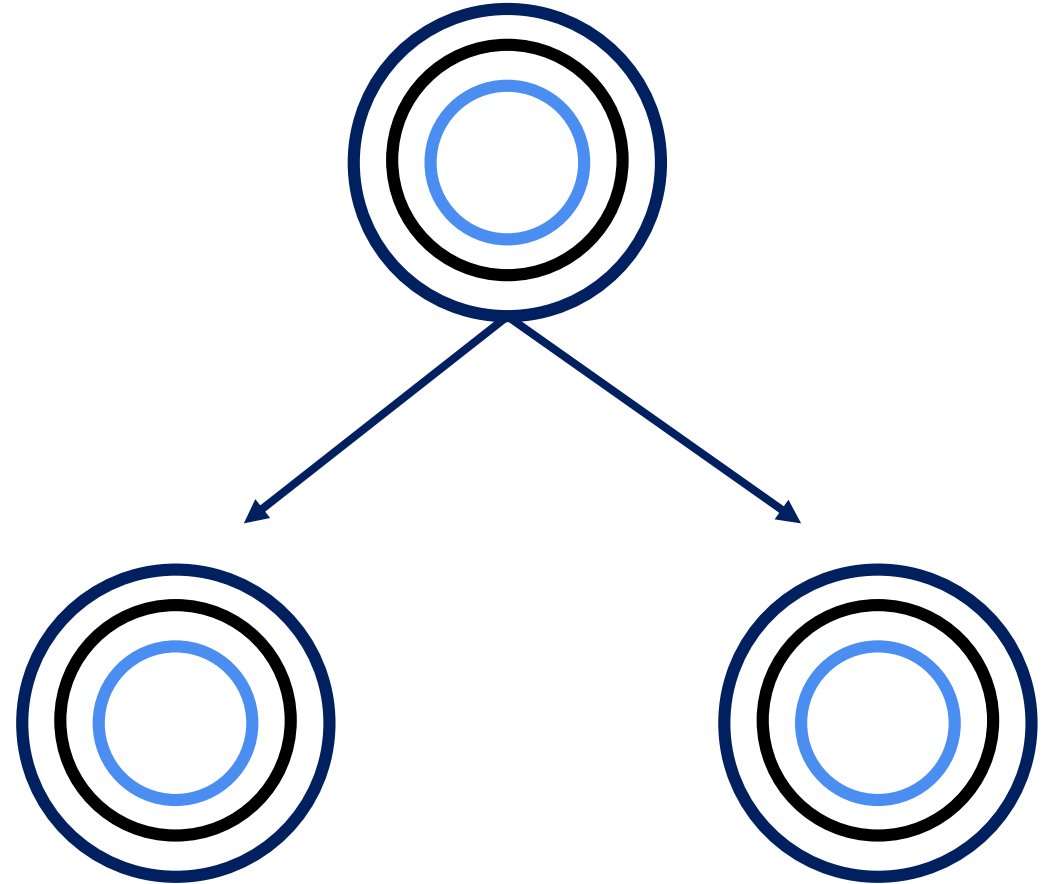


24 hrs (*M.tuberculosis*)

- **Generation time (or doubling time):** is the time it takes for a bacterium to complete one division.
- **This time varies significantly between different microorganisms.**
 - Some bacteria are **very fast**, such as *Vibrio cholerae*, which can divide every 13 minutes
 - Other bacteria are **very slow**, such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which requires approximately 24 hours to complete a single division.

Bacterial Reproduction

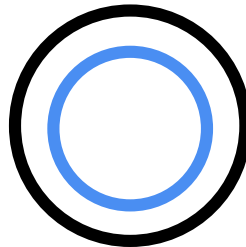
Binary fission



Bacterial Reproduction

1

Elongation

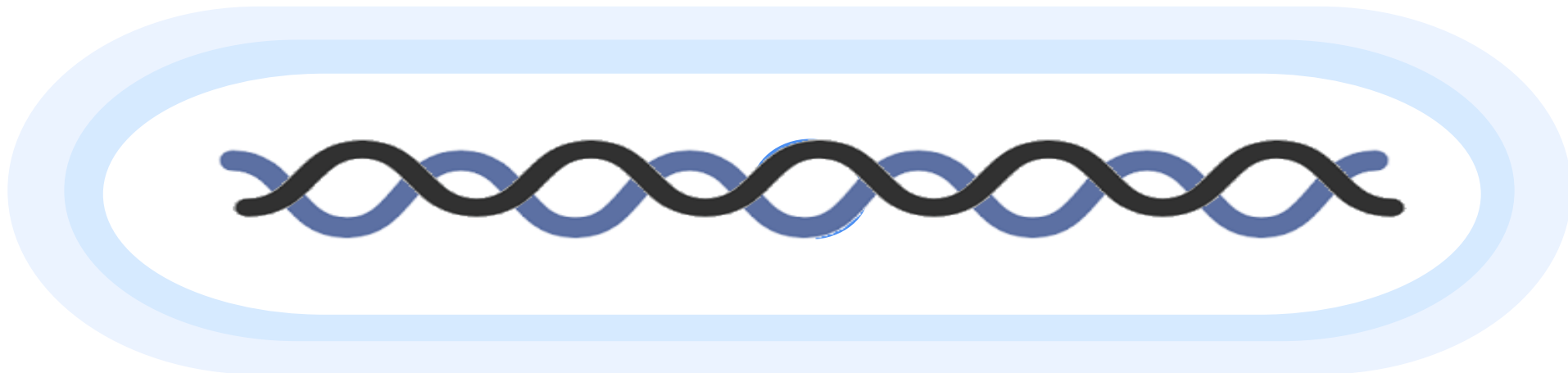


Bacterial Reproduction

- The bacterial cell contains a single, circular, double-stranded DNA molecule.
For simplicity we will assume that is double helical stranded

1

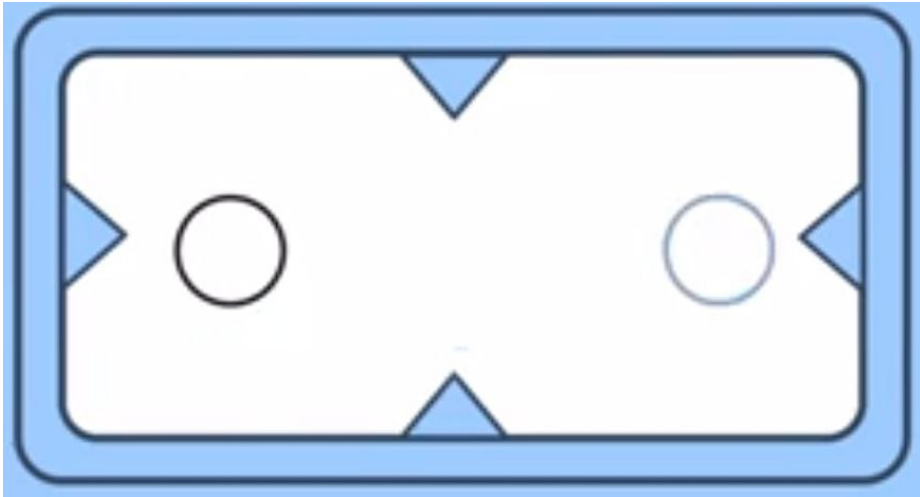
Elongation : The bacterium cell, which contains a single, circular, double-stranded DNA, begins to elongate. This elongation typically occurs in **one direction** to ensure the resulting daughter cells are the same size as the parent.



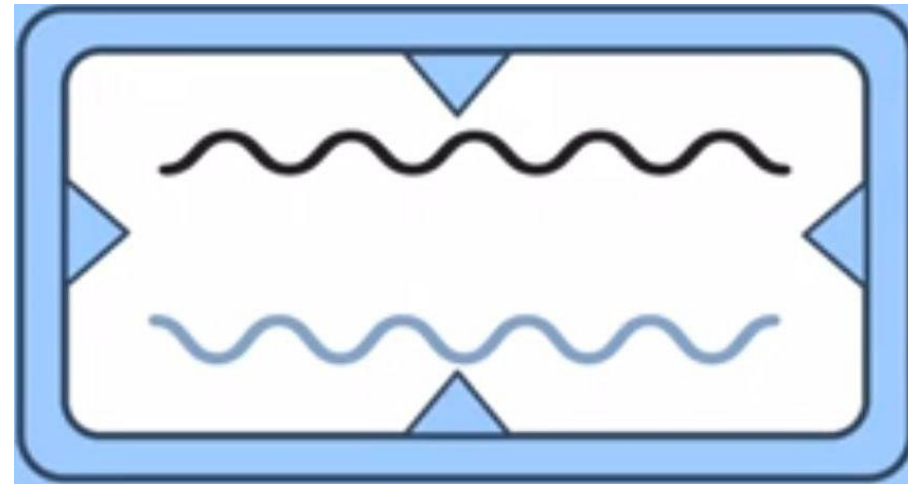
Bacterial Reproduction

2

Separation of 2 strands: The two strands of the circular DNA separate. Each single strand attaches to a **mesosome**. The mesosome contains enzymes, equivalent to those in mitochondria, that **unwind the double-stranded DNA**.



Original shape of DNA



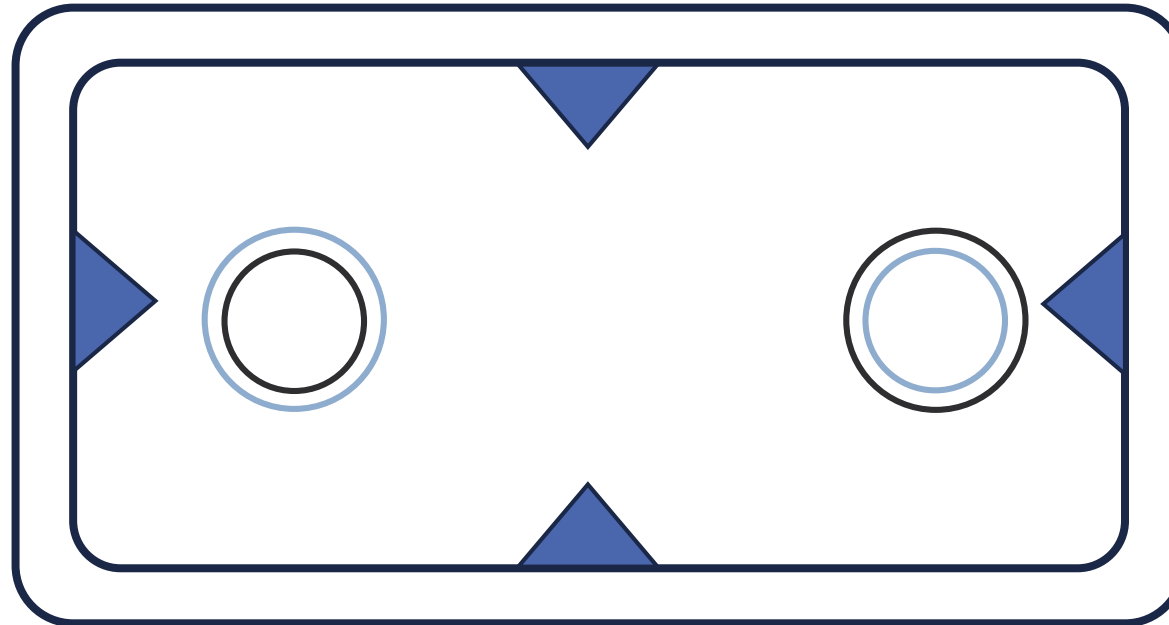
Assumed shape of DNA

Bacterial Reproduction

3

Separate ssDNA & become dsDNA

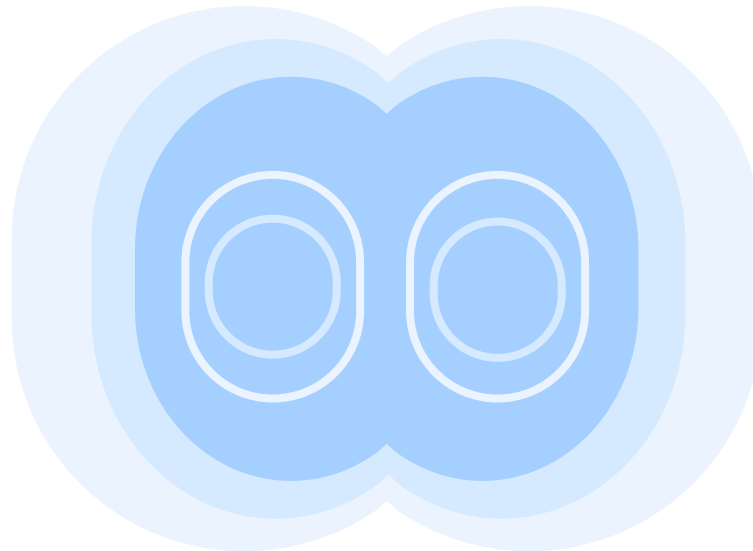
- The separated single-stranded DNA (ssDNA) molecules, which are now on opposite sides of the cell, each act as a template to build a new complementary strand, resulting in two identical double-stranded (dsDNA) circular molecules.



Bacterial Reproduction

4 Formation of division septum

- A division septum (specifically the septal mesosome) begins to form in the middle of the elongated cell.

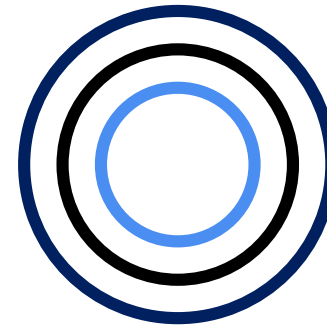
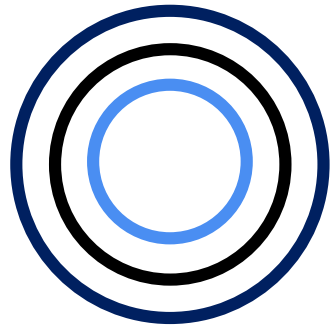


Bacterial Reproduction

5

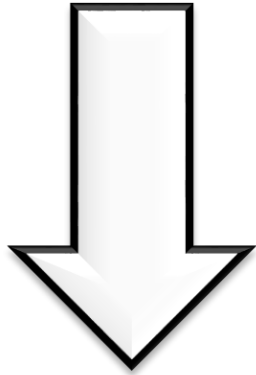
Cell separation

- The septum constricts (narrows) progressively until it completely separates the cell, resulting in two identical daughter cells.



Bacterial culture media

Bacteria grow
(In vitro)



Need nutrients for
growth



Artificial

- **Culture media** is an **artificial** nutrient medium used to grow bacteria in **vitro** (outside a living organism).
- It provides the **necessary nutrients** for bacterial growth, such as proteins, salts, and sugars.

Purpose

1

Study Properties



The primary purposes for culturing bacteria are:

- **Detection:** To determine if an infection is bacterial or non-bacterial.
- **Study Properties:** To observe and study the characteristics of the bacteria.

Purpose

2

Isolation & diagnosis (Causative agent)

- To isolate the specific bacterium and identify it as the causative agent of a disease.

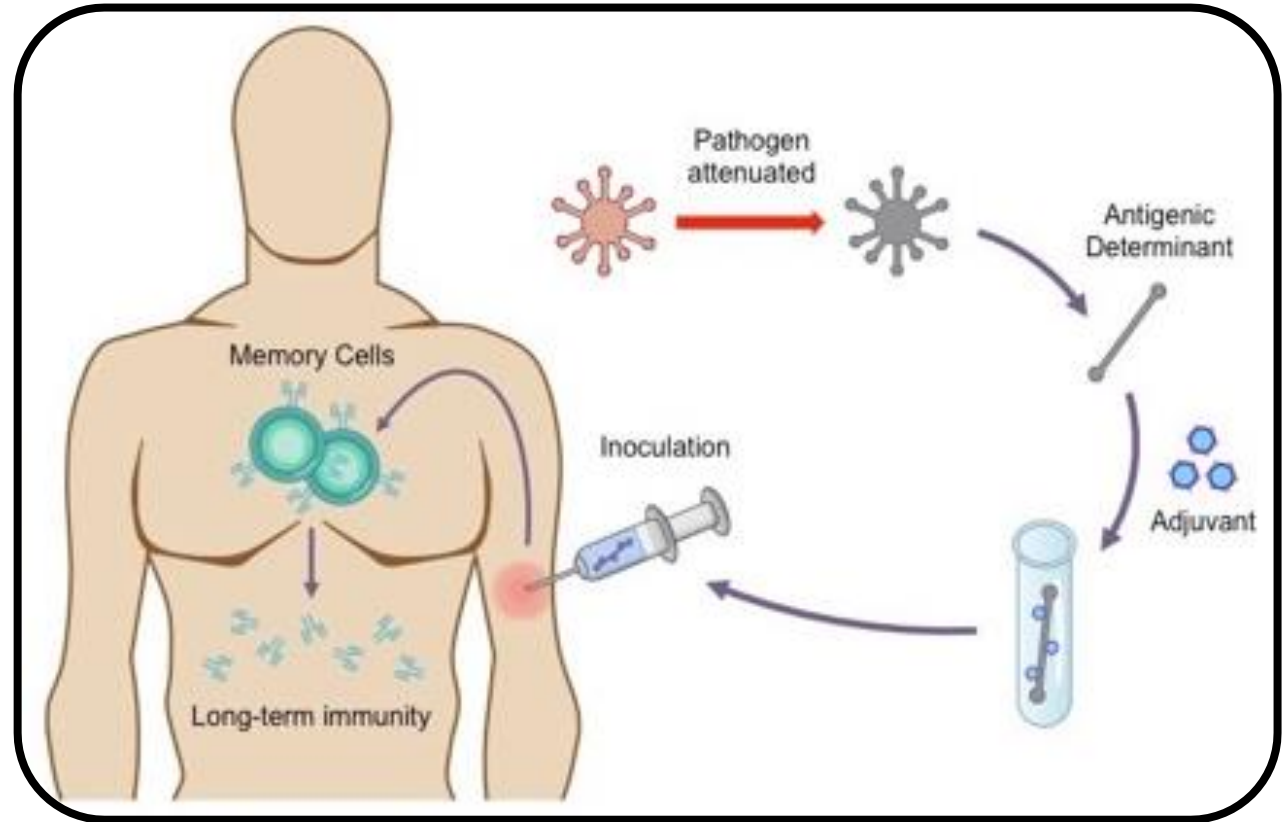


Purpose

3

Prepare vaccine & Other product

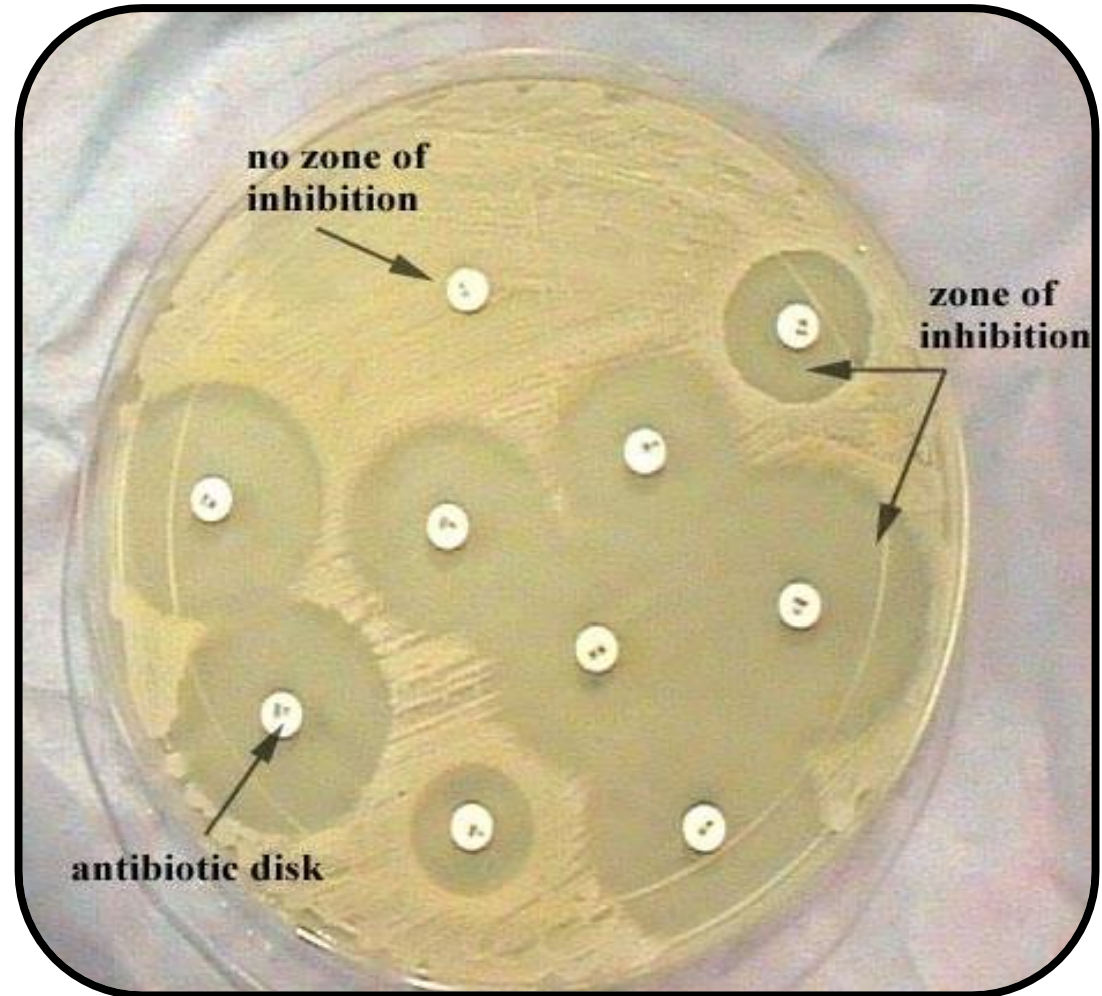
- To grow bacteria for the creation of vaccines or other products (e.g., extracting Streptokinase from *Streptococcus pyogenes* to dissolve blood clots).



Purpose

4

For Selection proper
antibiotics



Classification of media

Liquid

Used in test tubes and referred to as **broth**.



Solid

Have a Jell-like structure and are poured into **Petri dishes**.



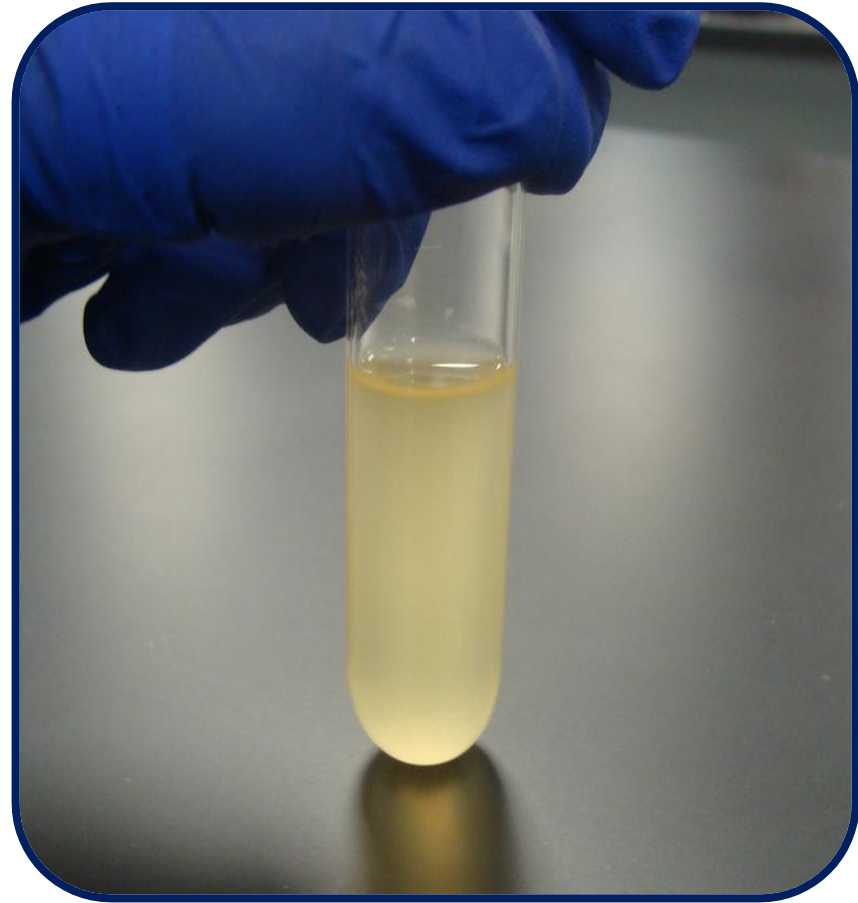
Types of media

- 1) Simple media
- 2) Enriched media
- 3) Selective media
- 4) Differential media



Simple media

Basic requirement for
growth of most bacteria



Simple media

A) Peptone water

Peptone + 0.5% NaCl

- Enhancement : supports bacterial growth
- serves as a base for Sugar media



Simple media

B) Nutrient broth

Meat extract

Enhancement



Simple media

C) Nutrient agar plate

Nutrient broth + 2% agar
agar
(Seaweed)



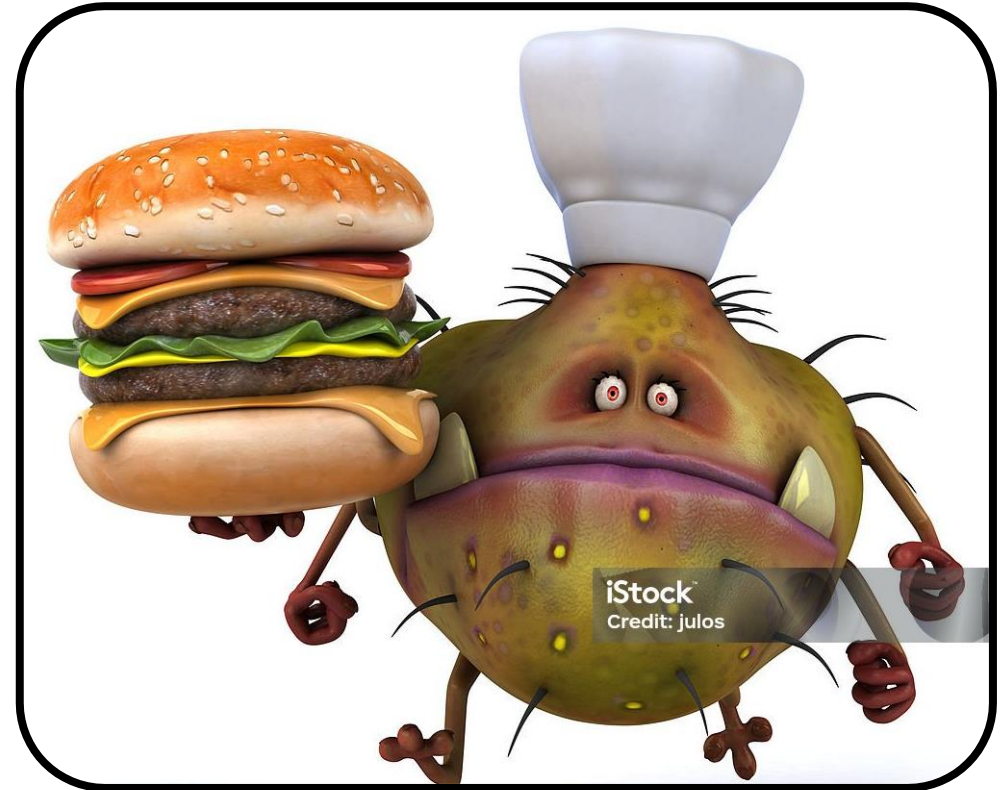
Staph. aureus

- This is a solid medium created by adding **2% agar-agar** (a substance derived from seaweed) to **nutrient broth**.
- The mixture is boiled (approx. 100 C), poured into Petri dishes, and solidifies at room temperature to a semi-solid, Jell-like consistency.
- It is suitable for growing bacteria like **Staphylococcus aureus**.

Enriched media

Fastidious bacteria Need blood, serum for growth

- **Fastidious bacteria:** organisms that are "demanding" or "spoiled" and require additional nutrients beyond what simple media offers, such as **blood** or **serum**.



Enriched media

A) Blood agar

Nutrient agar heated at 45°C
(semisolid)
+ sheep blood

- Sheep blood is preferred to avoid the presence of antibiotics or antibodies that might be in other blood sources and could affect results.

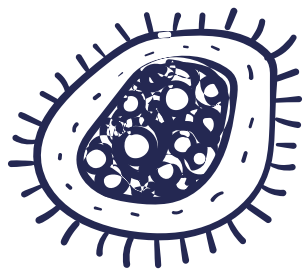


Enriched media

A) Blood agar

Streptococci

*e.g. Strept. Pyogenes
& Strept. pneumoniae*



Hemolysis on blood agar:

A. Complete (beta) hemolysis:

- *Staphylococcus aureus*
- *Streptococcus pyogenes*

The bacteria completely destroy the RBCs, creating a clear zone around the colony.

B. Partial (alpha) hemolysis:

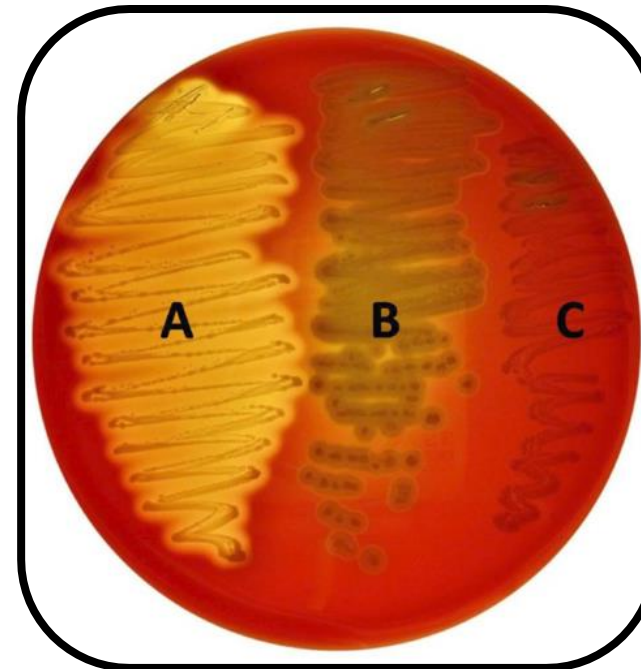
- *Streptococcus viridans*
- *pneumococci*.

The bacteria partially break down the RBCs, resulting in a greenish discoloration around the colony.

C. No (gamma) hemolysis:

- *Enterococci*.

The bacteria do not cause any hemolysis, and the media remains unchanged.



Enriched media

B) Chocolate agar

Nutrient agar heated
at 100°C, add blood

Hemoglobin (Hb)  Hematin
(Chocolate)

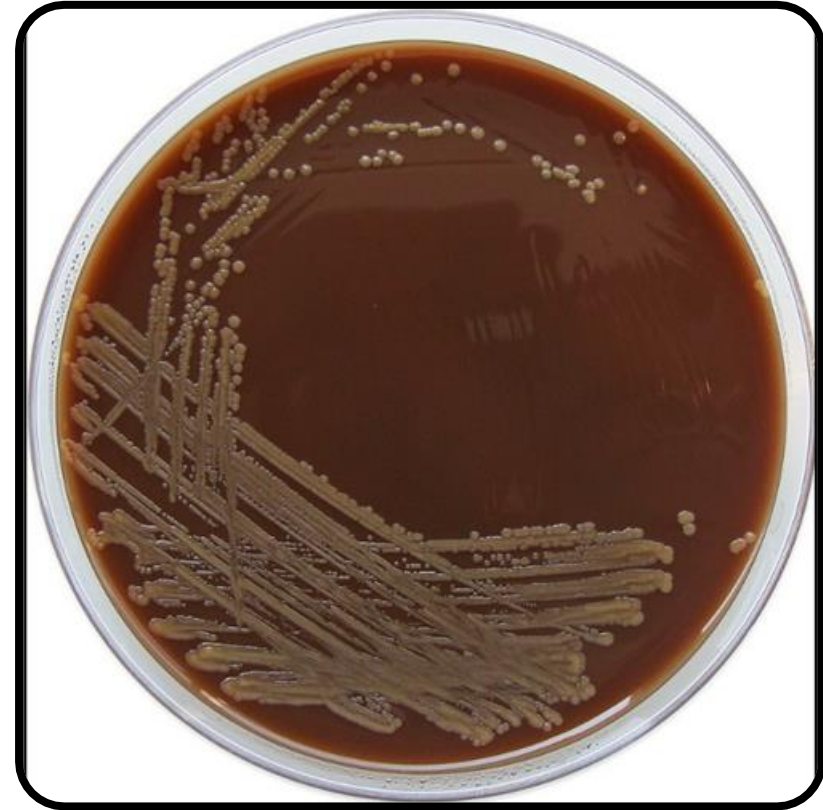
- The high heat breaks down the RBCs, releasing hemoglobin (Hb), which is further broken down into **hematin**.
- **Hematin** gives the medium dark chocolate color, which is how it gets its name.



Enriched media

B) Chocolate agar

It is required for growing highly fastidious bacteria, such as **Haemophilus** and **Neisseria**.



Selective media

Allow a certain organism to grow
(Selective) &
inhibits the growth of others

- It is designed to **support** the growth of specific (**desired**) organisms while **inhibiting** the growth of other (**undesired**) organisms.
- This selection is achieved by adding substances **like dyes, chemicals, or antibiotics** that the desired organism is resistant to, **which helps in the identification process.**



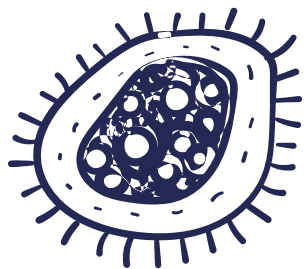
Selective media

1. Lowenstein Jensen medium

Malachite green

Mycobacterium tuberculosis

- **Lowenstein Jensen Medium:** The **selective** ingredient is **malachite green**. This medium supports the growth of *Mycobacterium* species, especially *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, while inhibiting others.



Selective media

2. Blood tellurite agar

Potassium tellurite

C.diphtheriae

- **Blood Tellurite Agar:** The selective ingredient is potassium tellurite. This medium is selective for *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*.



Differential media

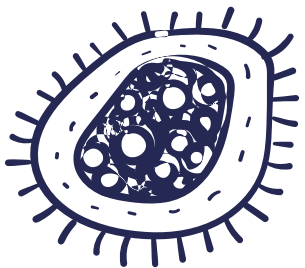
Selective

+

Indicator

Allow a certain
organism to grow

Indicator to differentiate
(change in visibly)



Differential media

1. MacConkey's agar

- **Selective Agent:** Peptone, Bile salts which are selective for Enterobacteriaceae.
- **Differential Components:**
 - **Lactose (the test sugar).**
 - **Neutral Red (the pH indicator).**
- **Mechanism:** It differentiates between bacteria that can ferment lactose and those that cannot:
 - **Lactose-fermenting bacteria:** Produce acid from lactose fermentation. This acid causes the neutral red pH indicator to turn **pink**.
 - **Non-lactose-fermenting bacteria:** Do not ferment lactose, so no acid is produced. The colonies remain **pale** (colorless).



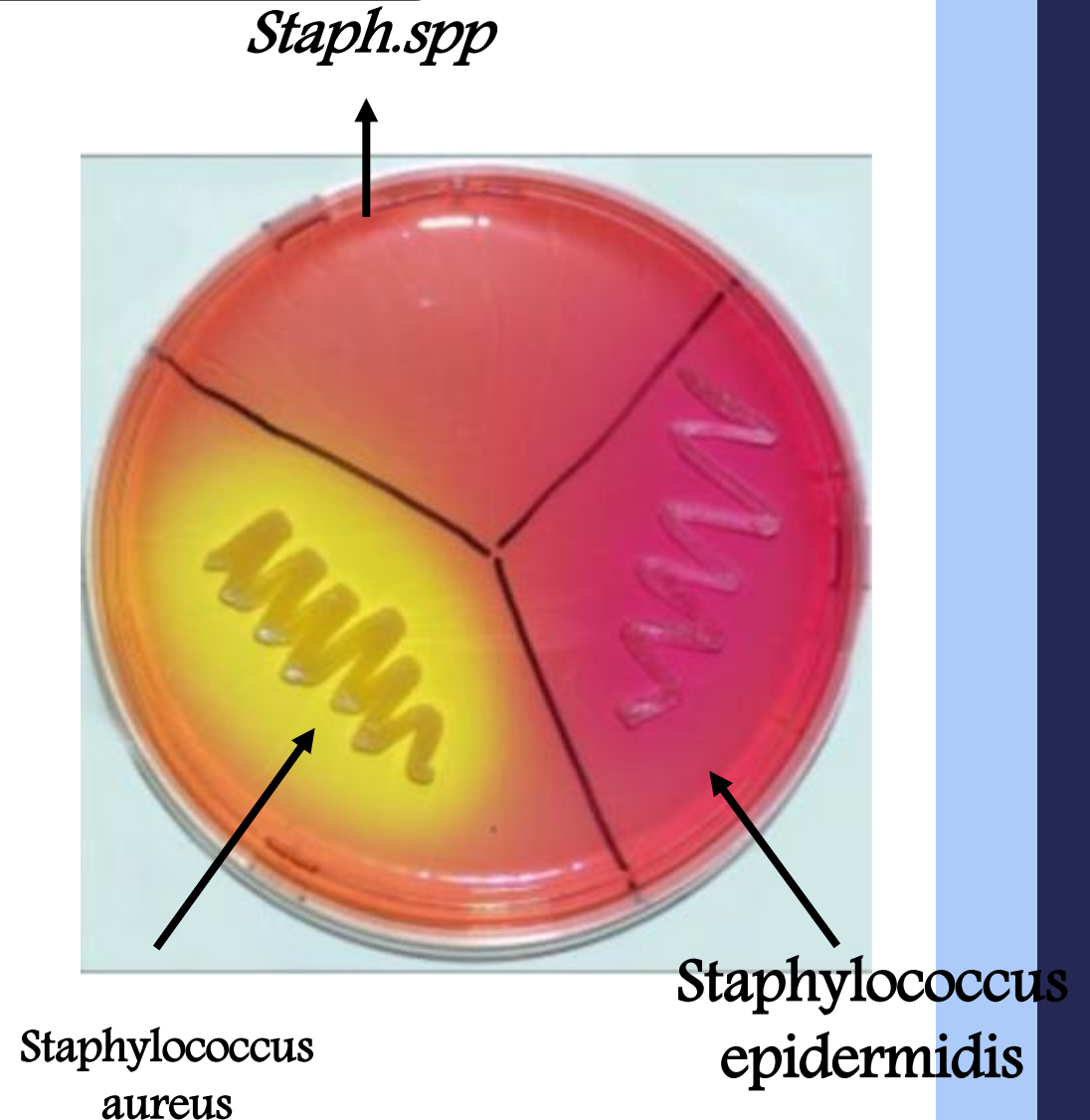
Pink

Pale

Differential media

2. Mannitol salt agar

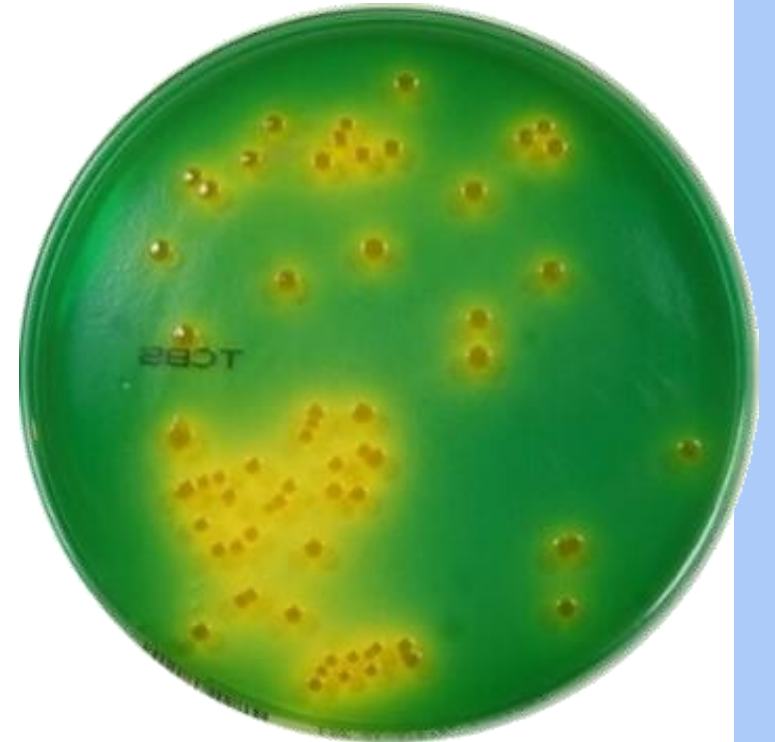
- **Selective Agent:** High salt (7.5% NaCl), which is selective for *Staphylococcus* species.
- **Differential Components:**
 - **Mannitol** (the test sugar).
 - **Phenol Red** (the pH indicator).
- **Mechanism:** It differentiates *Staphylococcus* species based on their ability to ferment mannitol.
 - *Staphylococcus aureus*: **Ferments** mannitol, producing acid, which turns the phenol red indicator **yellow**.
 - *Staphylococcus epidermidis*: **Does not ferment** mannitol, so the medium **remains pink**.



Differential media

3. Thiosulfate–Citrate–Bile–Sucrose Agar. (TCBS)

- **Selective Agents:** Thiosulfate, Citrate, and Bile.
- **Differential Components:**
 - Sucrose (the test sugar).
 - Bromothymol Blue (the pH indicator).
- **Mechanism:** Used to differentiate *Vibrio* species.
 - ***Vibrio cholerae*:** **Ferments** sucrose, producing acid, which turns the bromothymol blue **indicator yellow**.
 - **Other *Vibrio* (e.g., *parahaemolyticus*):** **Do not ferment sucrose**, so the colonies **remain green** (the original color of the indicator).

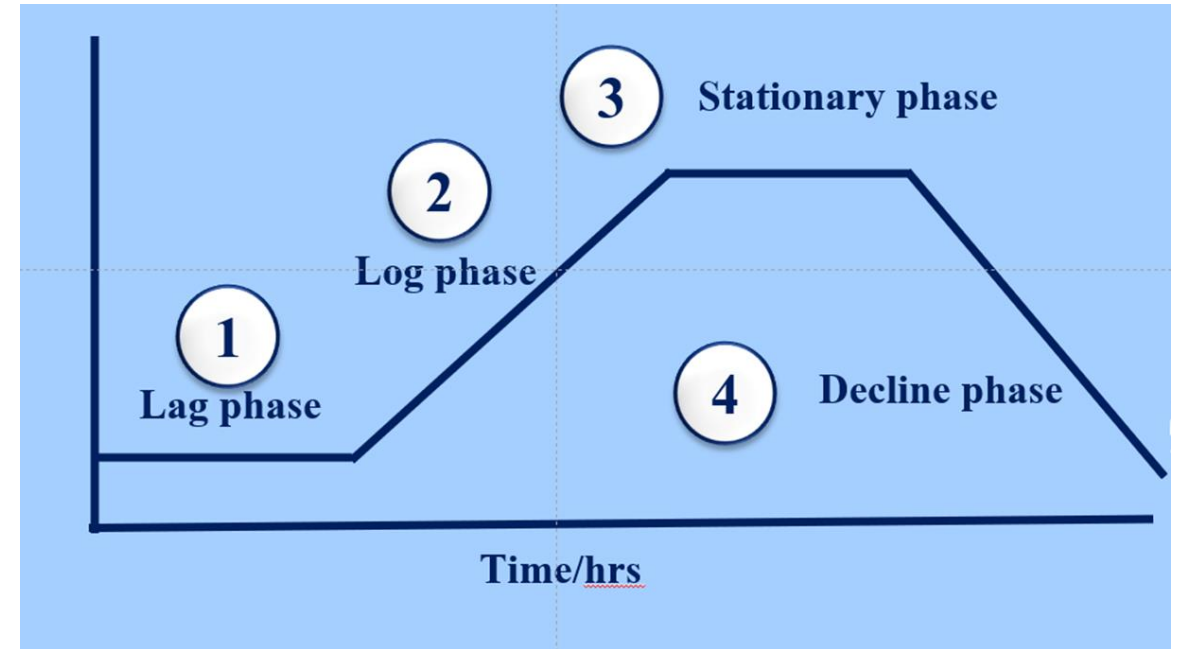


Bacterial growth curve

- 1) Lag phase
- 2) Log phase
- 3) Stationary phase
- 4) Decline phase

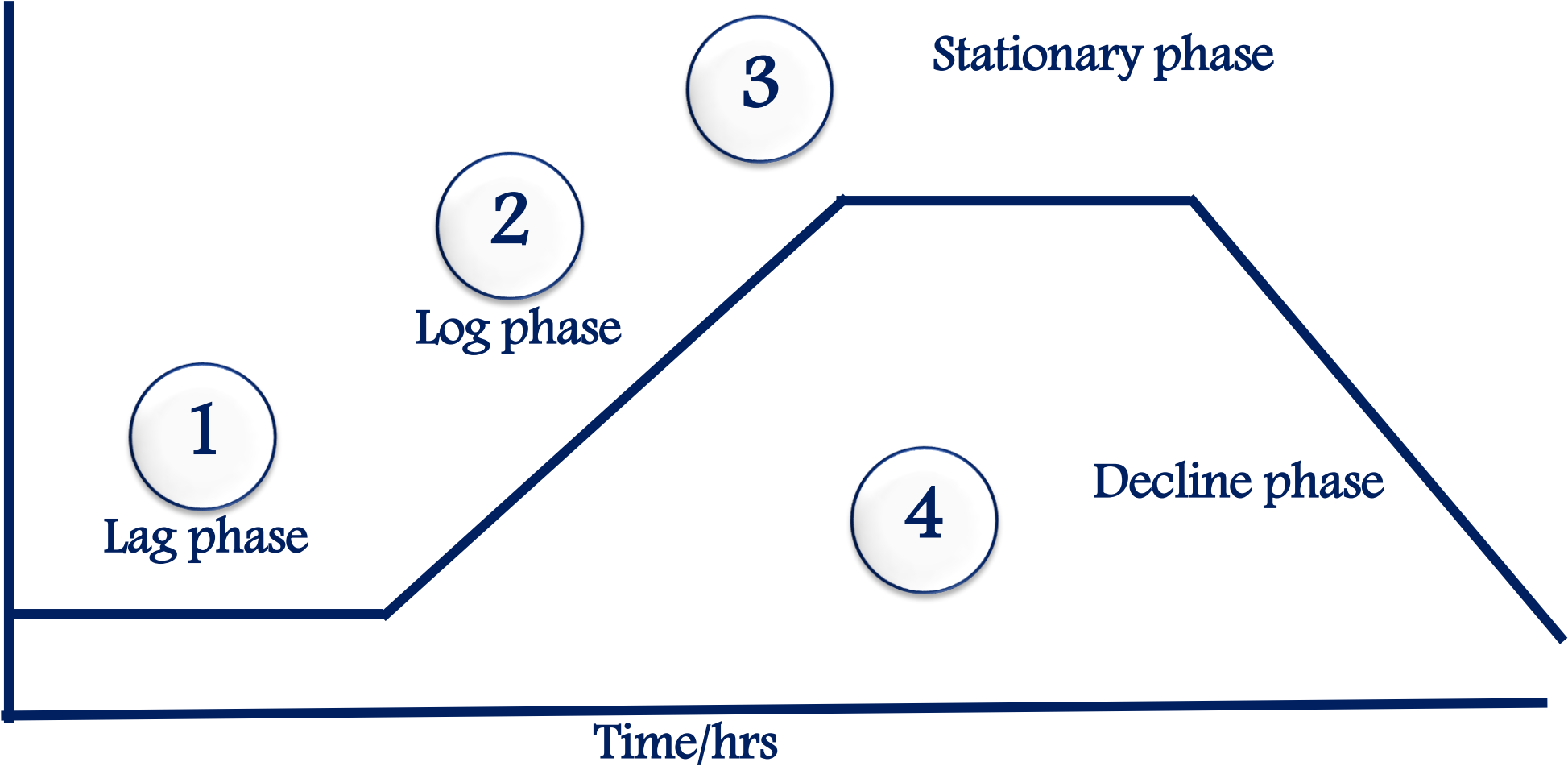
Bacterial growth curve

If a small number of bacteria are inoculated into a liquid nutrient medium



72h

Bacterial growth curve



Lag phase

- The Lag phase is the **initial adaptation stage**.
- The **number** of bacteria **remains constant** (no division is occurring).
- The bacterial cells **increase** in **size** as they adapt to the new medium, synthesize necessary proteins and enzymes, and feed on available nutrients.

No. of bacteria

1

Lag phase

No. constant

& ↑ Size

Time/hrs

Log phase

No. of bacteria

Start division

2

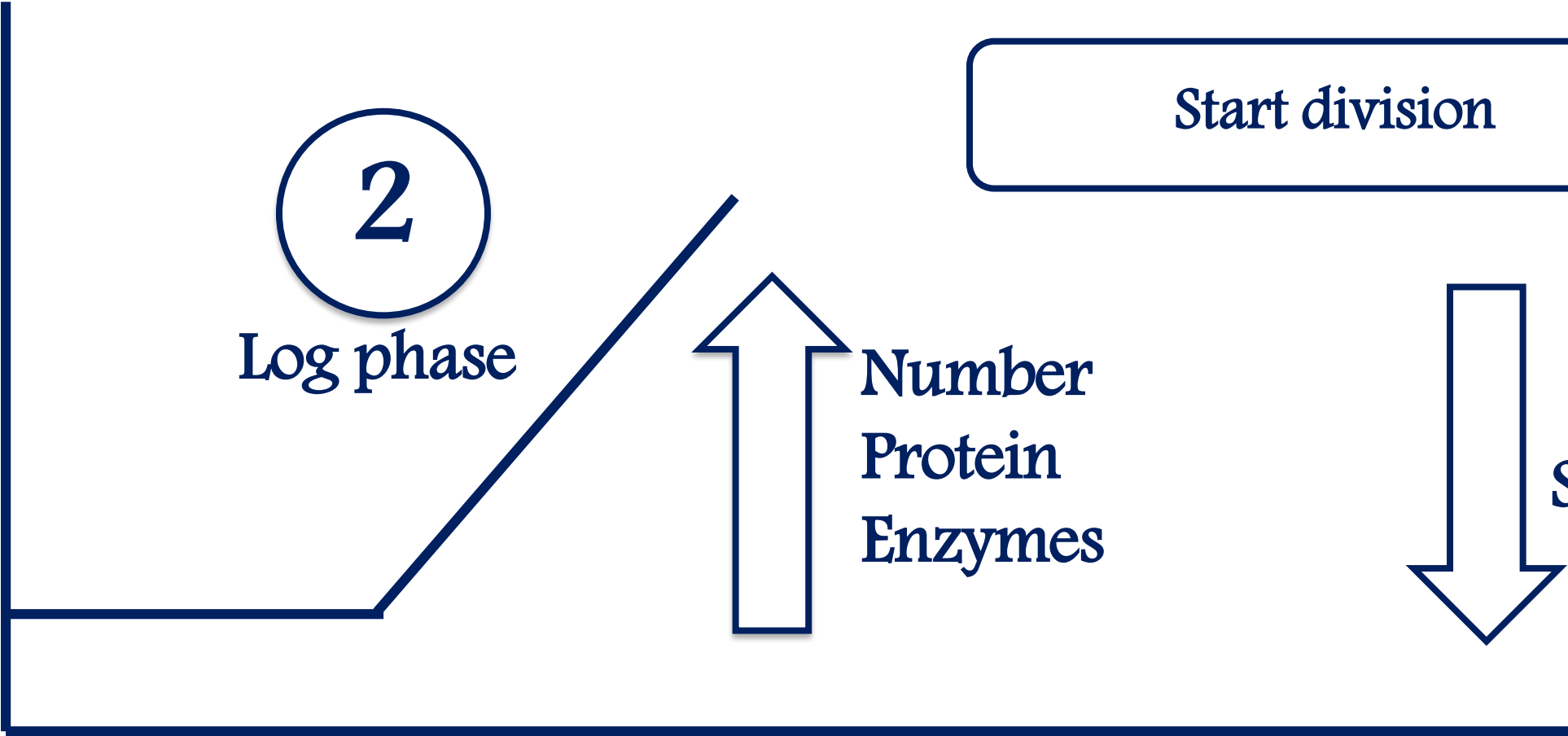
Log phase



Number
Protein
Enzymes



Size



Time/hrs

- In the Log phase (exponential phase), bacteria start dividing.
- There is an exponential increase in the number of bacteria, protein, and enzymes.
- The **size** of individual cells **decreases** as the large cells from the lag phase begin to **divide**.
- This is considered the "**golden phase**" for the bacteria and is the primary stage where **antibiotics are effective** (as they target growth and division).

Stationary phase

No. of bacteria

3

Stationary phase

Constant number
No. of division = No. of death
(Waste product)

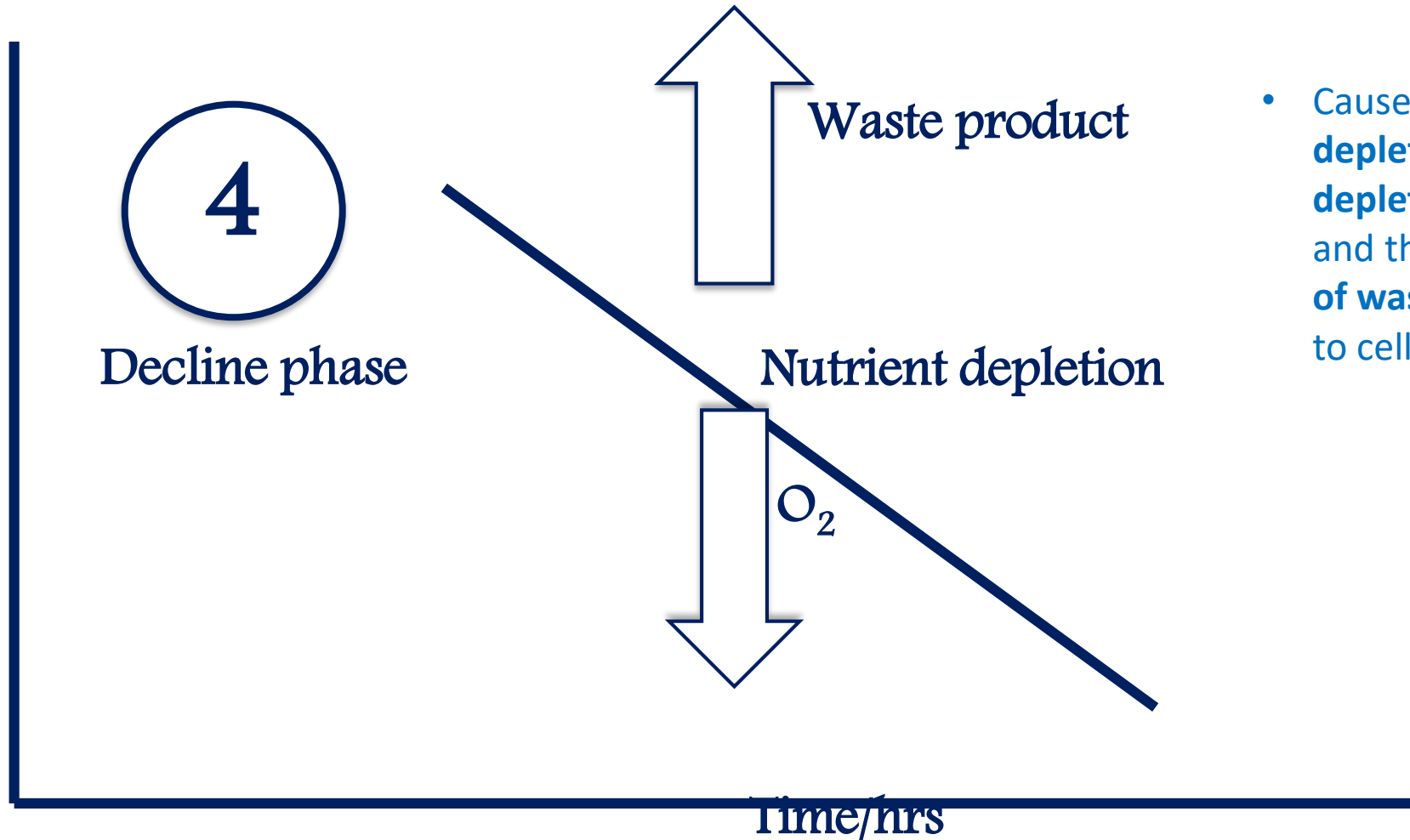
This state is caused by:

- Depletion of nutrients.
- Accumulation of waste products.

Time/hrs

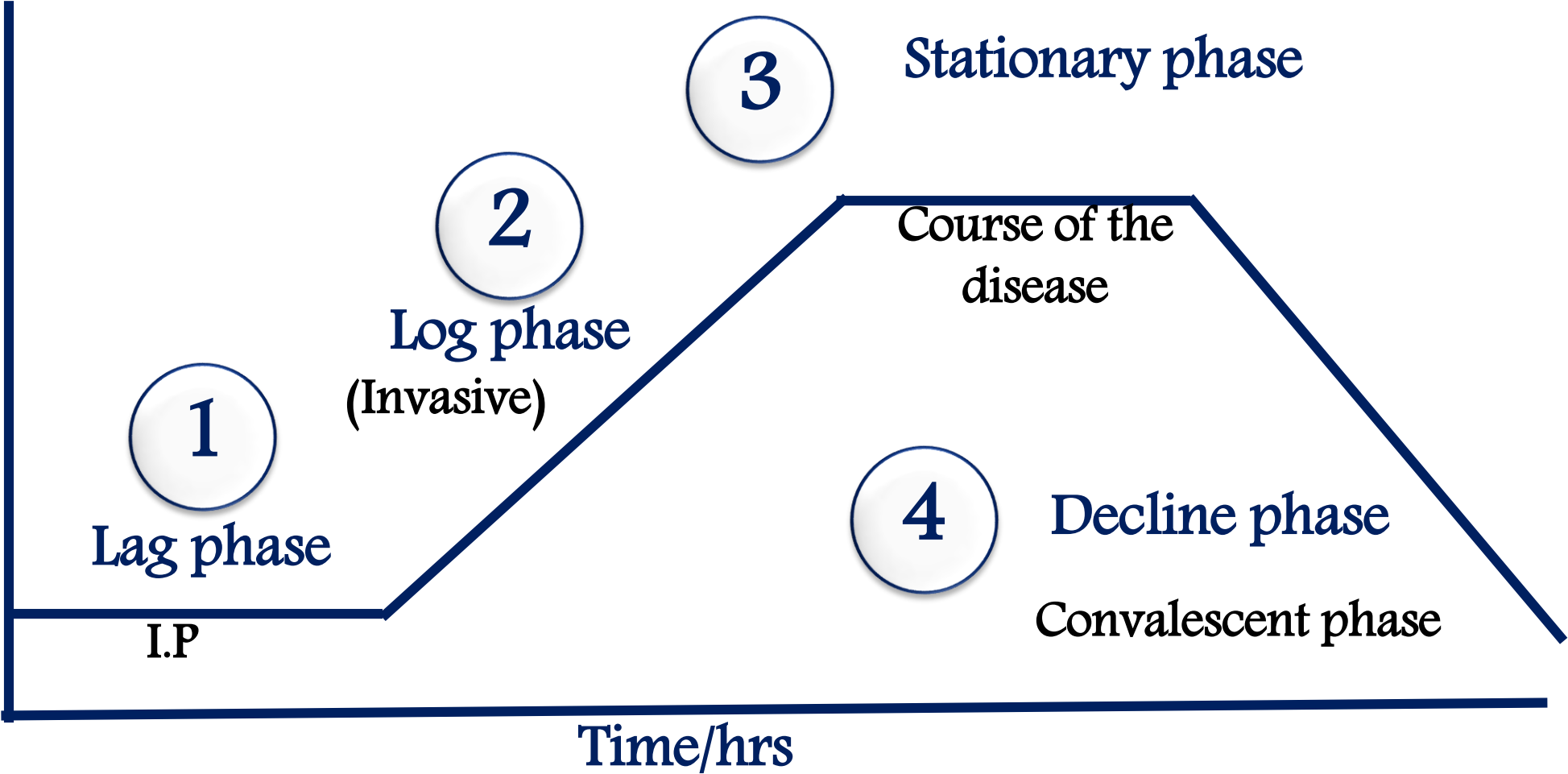
Decline phase

Nutrient broth



- Caused by the **severe depletion of nutrients**, **depletion of oxygen (O₂)**, and the **high accumulation of waste products**, leading to cell death.

Bacterial growth curve



The *in vitro* bacterial growth curve can be correlated to the stages of a bacterial infection in a human host:

- **Lag Phase** (in vitro) corresponds to the **Incubation Period (I.P.)** (in vivo), where the bacteria are adapting to the host.
- **Log Phase** (in vitro) corresponds to the **Invasive Phase** (in vivo), where bacteria multiply rapidly, and signs and symptoms of the disease appear.
- **Stationary Phase** (in vitro) corresponds to the **Course of the Disease** (in vivo), representing the peak of the illness.
- **Decline Phase** (in vitro) corresponds to the **Convalescent Phase** (in vivo), or the recovery stage, as the host's immune system or treatment overcomes the infection.

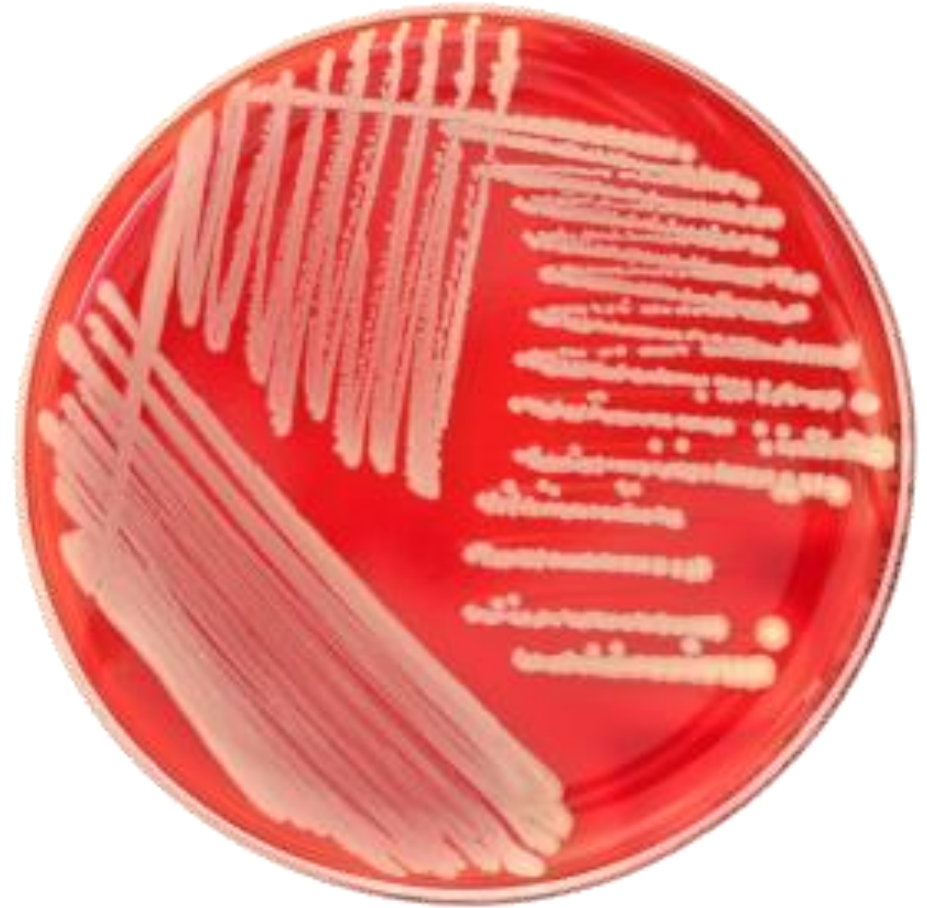
Bacterial growth requirements

Growth Requirements

- A) Nutrition
- B) Gaseous
- C) Temp. & pH

A) Nutrition

**Maintenance of
bacterial growth**



A) Nutrition

1- Autotrophic

auto = self

Trophic = nutrition

2- Heterotrophic

hetero = different

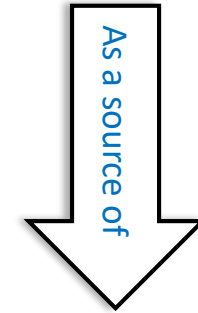
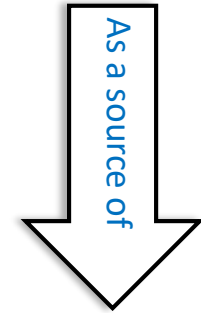
Trophic = nutrition

Autotrophic

CO_2

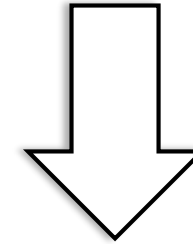
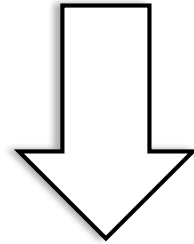
Ammonium

Utilize simple
inorganic
substance



Carbon

Nitrogen



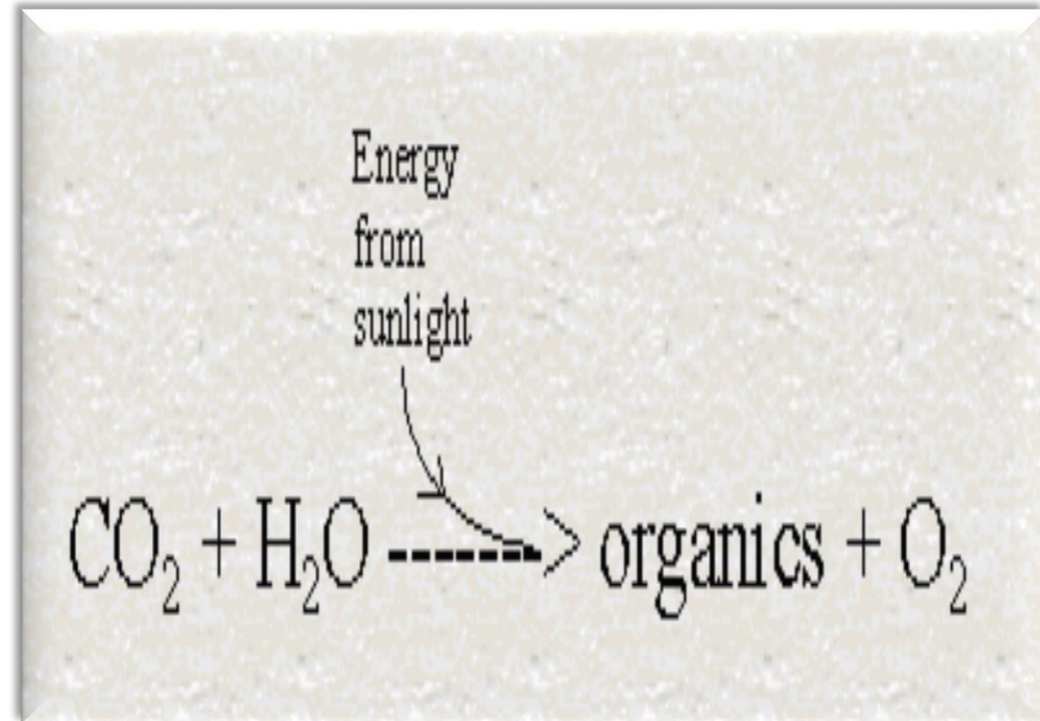
Complex organic materials

(Saprophytic)

(decaying), found in soil and air, and make their own food.

Autotrophic

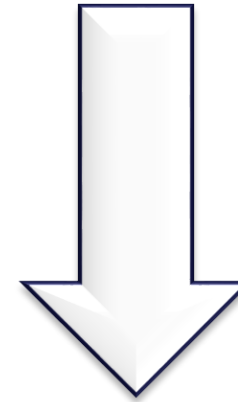
**No medical
importance**



- Because they are self-sufficient, they have no medical importance and do not cause disease.

Heterotrophic

Parasitic



Living host

Medical important

These bacteria require complex preformed organic substances e.g. sugars, proteins etc.

- They must obtain these nutrients from a living host, meaning they are **parasitic**.
- Because they must infect a host to get nutrition, these bacteria are of medical importance.

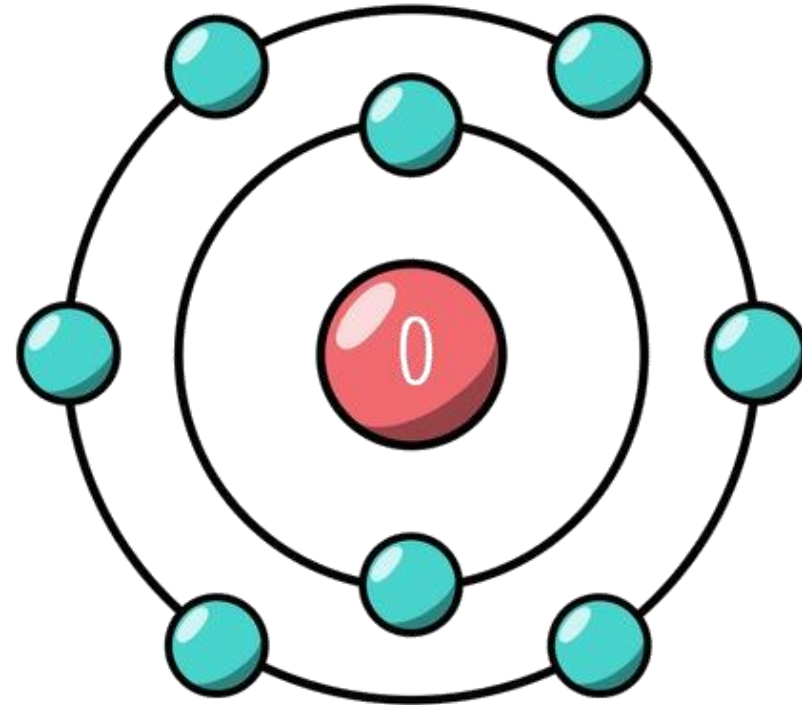
Growth Requirements

Gaseous requirements

O₂ requirement, bacteria are classified into 5 groups

O₂ requirement

- 1) Obligate aerobes
- 2) Obligate anaerobes
- 3) Facultative anaerobes
- 4) Micro-aerophilic
- 5) Aero-tolerant



OXYGEN

Respiration

- **Respiration** in bacteria does *not* mean breathing (inhalation/exhalation). It refers to **glucose catabolism** for the purpose of **energy production (ATP)**.
- ✓ **Aerobic Respiration:** Energy production that **requires oxygen**.
- ✓ **Anaerobic Respiration:** Energy production that **does not require oxygen**.

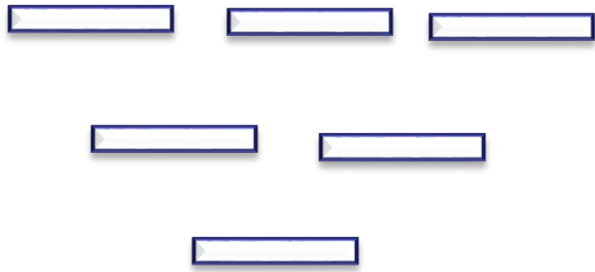


energy

1- Obligate aerobes (Aerobic respiration)

Presence of O₂

Absence of O₂



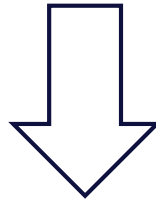
Growth

No growth

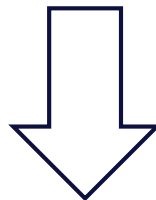
e.g. Pseudomonas aeruginosa

1- Obligate aerobes (Aerobic respiration)

Aerobic respiration

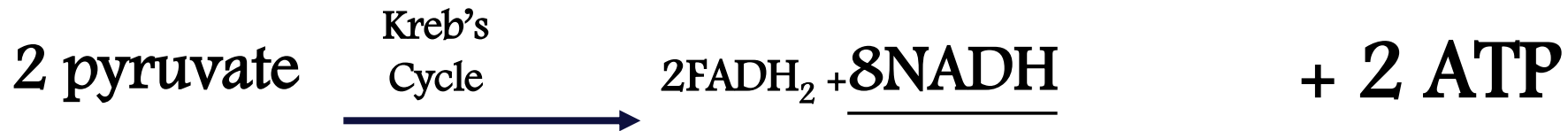
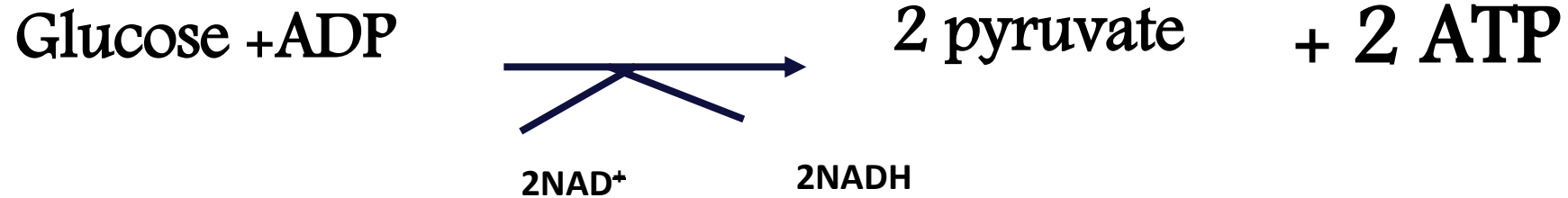


For production Energy (ATP)



By Glucose catabolism (glycolysis)

1- Obligate aerobes (Aerobic respiration)



Oxidative phosphorylation



38 ATP

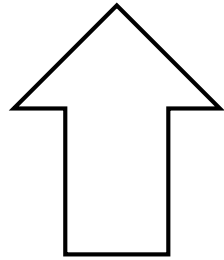
Metabolism (Aerobic Respiration):

1. **Glycolysis:** Glucose is converted to 2 Pyruvate, generating **2 ATP**.
2. **Krebs Cycle:** The 2 Pyruvate enters the Krebs cycle, generating **2 ATP**.
3. **Oxidative Phosphorylation:** In the presence of **oxygen**, which acts as the final electron/hydrogen carrier, this pathway generates a large amount (**34 ATP**).
4. **Total Yield: 38 ATP.** This high energy yield helps the bacteria survive and reproduce efficiently.

1- Obligate aerobes

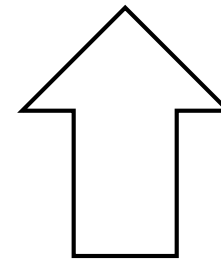
Highly toxic molecules

Superoxide (O_2^-)



Superoxide dismutase

(H_2O_2)



Catalase

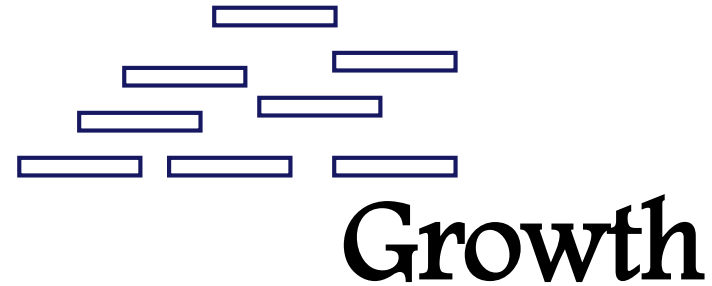
- **Toxic Byproducts:** This process creates highly toxic molecules (reactive oxygen species) like superoxide (O_2^-) and hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2).
- **Defense Mechanism:** Obligate aerobes possess two critical enzymes to neutralize these toxins:
 - **Superoxide dismutase (SOD):** Breaks down superoxide.
 - **Catalase:** Breaks down hydrogen peroxide.

2- Obligate anaerobes

Presence of O₂

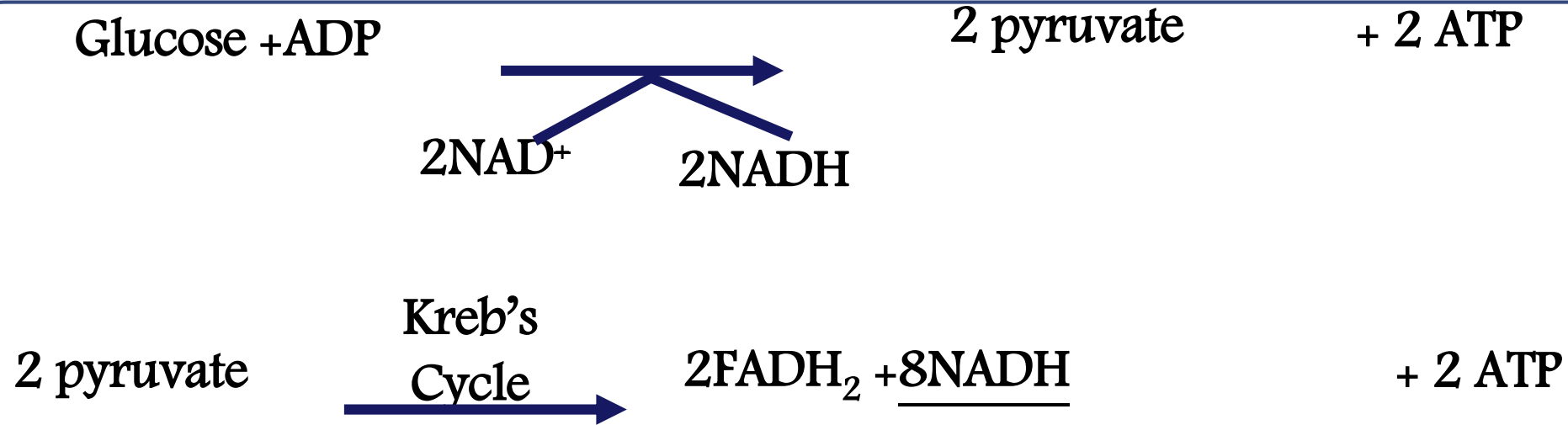
Absence of O₂

No growth



Bacteroides fragilis

2- Obligate anaerobes(Anaerobic respiration)



O₂



Other pathway

4 ATP

Lack Superoxide dismutase & Catalase

2- Obligate anaerobes(Anaerobic respiration)

The organism used inorganic molecules

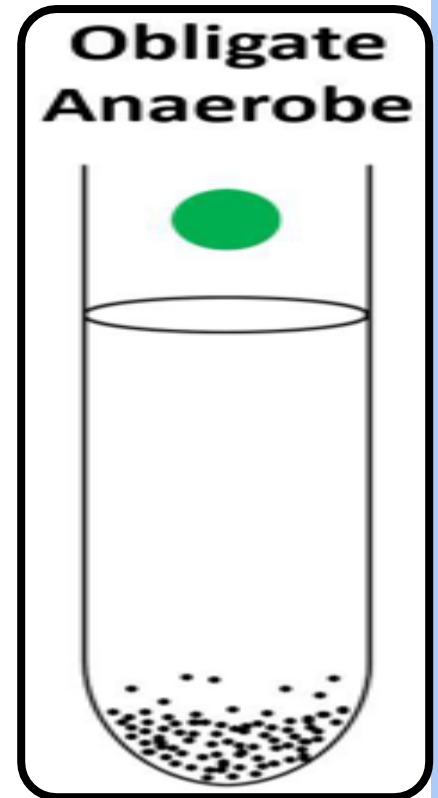
Nitrate
Sulfate
Co₂



Carry H⁺

13 ATP + 4 ATP
17 ATP

Lack
Superoxide dismutase
Catalase

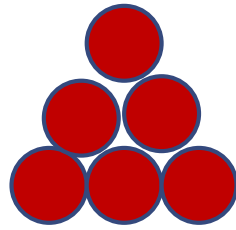


Metabolism (Anaerobic Respiration):

1. **Glycolysis:** Glucose is converted to 2 Pyruvate, generating 2 ATP.
 2. **Krebs Cycle:** The 2 Pyruvate enters the Krebs cycle, generating 2 ATP.
 3. **Total Yield (Pathway 1):** 4 ATP.
 4. **Alternative Pathway:** Since O₂ is not available to carry the hydrogen/electrons, the organism uses inorganic molecules (like Nitrate, Sulfate, or CO₂) as the final carrier. This pathway generates an additional 13 ATP.
 5. **Total Yield (Pathway 2):** 17 ATP (4 + 13).
- **Defense Mechanism:** Obligate anaerobes **lack** superoxide dismutase (SOD) and catalase.
 - **This is why oxygen is toxic to them:** if O₂ is present, toxic byproducts are formed, but the bacteria have no enzymes to neutralize them, and they die.

3- Facultative anaerobes

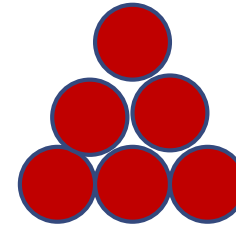
Presence of O_2



Growth

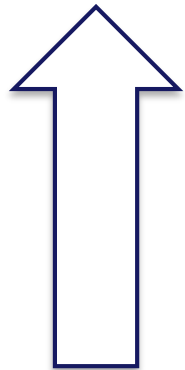
Rate of growth

Absence of O_2



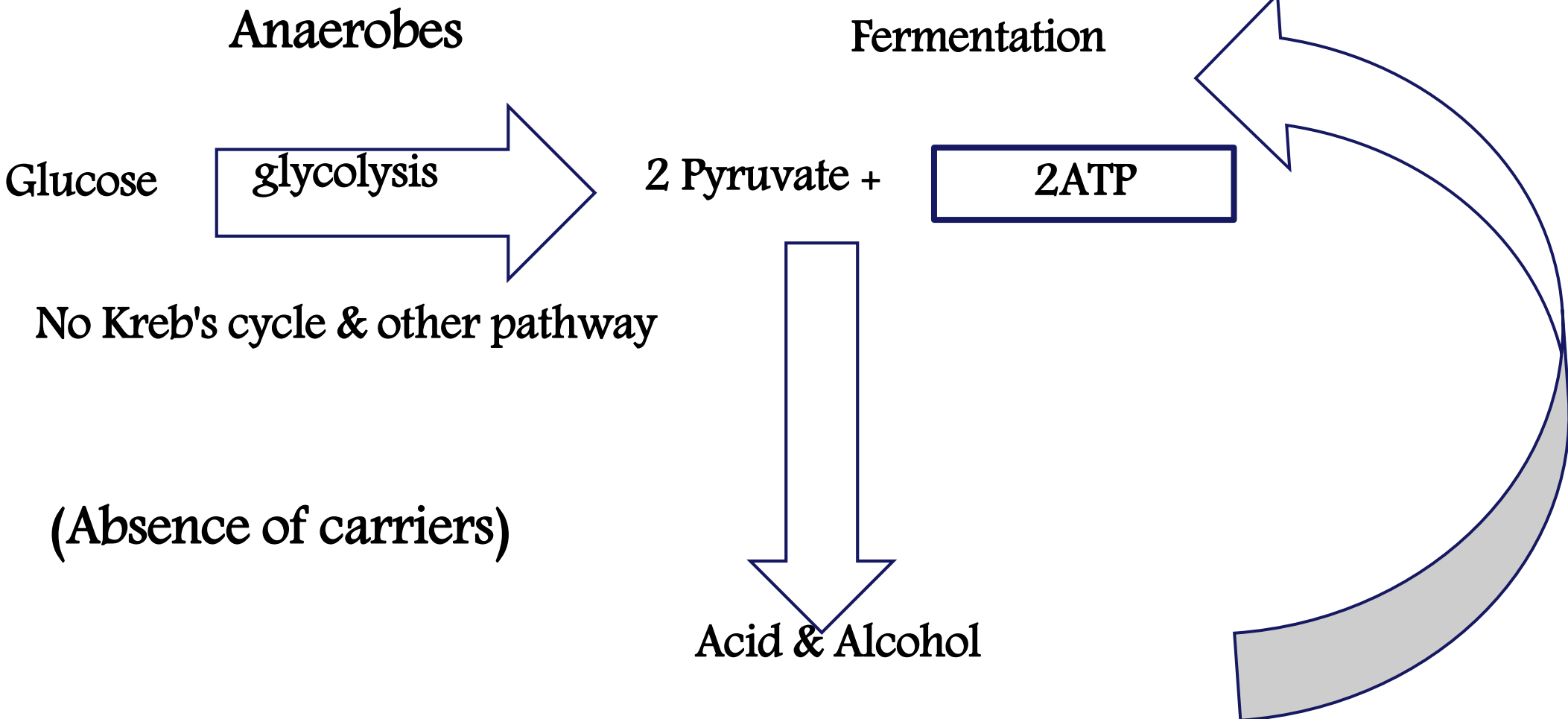
Growth

Most bacteria



They are primarily aerobic, so their rate of growth is **better** in the **presence** of O_2 , but they can live without it.

3- Facultative anaerobes



Metabolism:

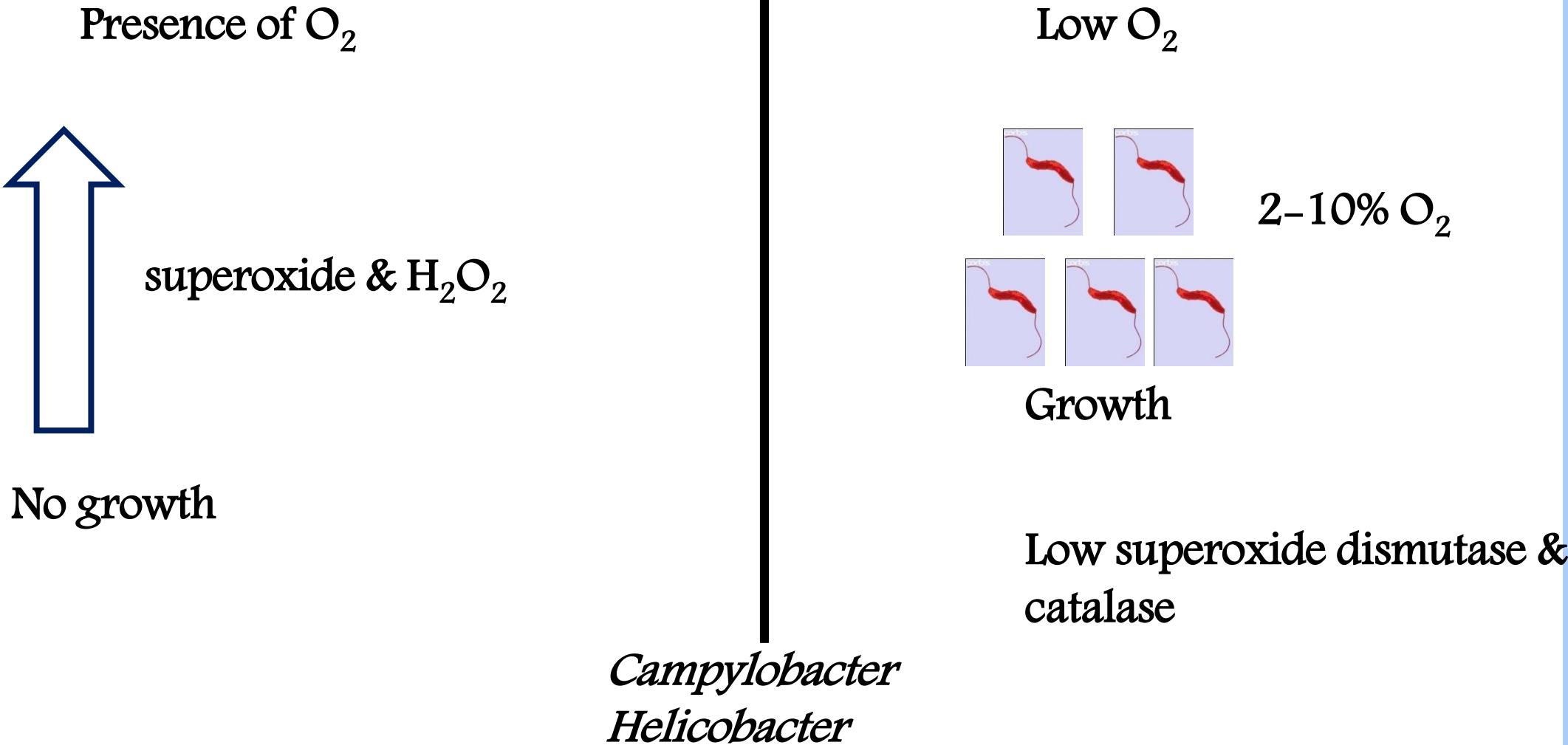
In Aerobic conditions (Presence of O₂):

- They perform **full** aerobic respiration (Glycolysis, Krebs, Oxidative Phosphorylation) and produce **38 ATP**.

In Anaerobic conditions (Absence of O₂):

- They perform **Glycolysis** (Glucose → 2 Pyruvate), **generating 2 ATP**.
- They **cannot** enter the Krebs cycle (lacking the O₂ carrier) or the other anaerobic pathway (not used to nitrate/sulfate).
- The pyruvate is instead broken down into **acid and alcohol**. This process is called **Fermentation**.
- This allows them to survive anaerobically, but it is much **less efficient (only 2 ATP)**.

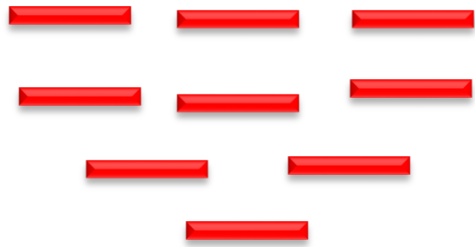
4- Micro-aerophilic



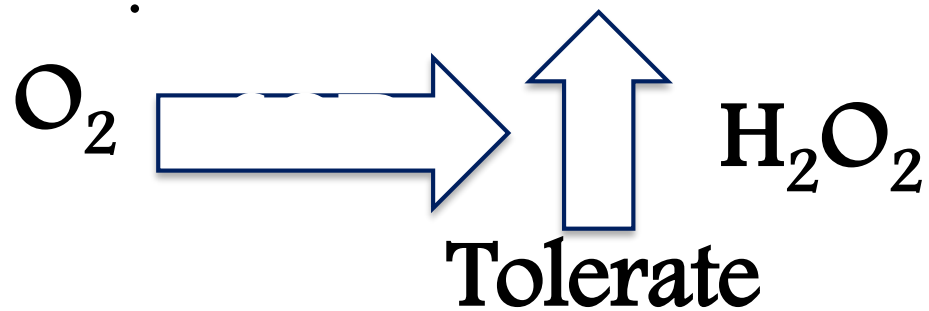
- Micro-aerophilic bacteria ("micro" = small) cannot grow in the presence of normal atmospheric O₂.
- They require a **low percentage** of O₂ (e.g., 2-10%) to grow.
- **Examples:** Campylobacter, Helicobacter.
- **Defense Mechanism:** They possess **low levels** of superoxide dismutase (SOD) and catalase.
 - These low enzyme levels are sufficient to neutralize the **small amount** of toxic byproducts (superoxide, H₂O₂) produced by the low O₂ concentration.
 - They cannot survive in normal O₂ levels because the large amount of toxic byproducts would overwhelm their limited enzyme supply.

5- Aero-tolerant anaerobes

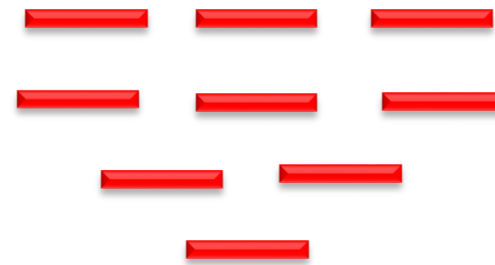
Low O₂



Superoxide dismutase



Absence of O₂



Growth

Cl.perfringens

- **Aero-tolerant Anaerobes** are primarily anaerobic (their origin growth is in the absence of O₂).
- However, they can "**tolerate**" or **withstand** the presence of low oxygen.
- **Example:** *Clostridium perfringens*.
- **Defense Mechanism:**
 - They **possess superoxide dismutase (SOD)**, which allows them to withstand **some** oxygen.
 - **They lack catalase.** Therefore, if H₂O₂ (hydrogen peroxide) accumulates, they **cannot neutralize it and will die**. They prefer anaerobic conditions.

Growth Requirement: CO₂ requirements

CO₂ (0.03%)

Present in air
is sufficient

CO₂ (5–10%)

(Capnophilic)

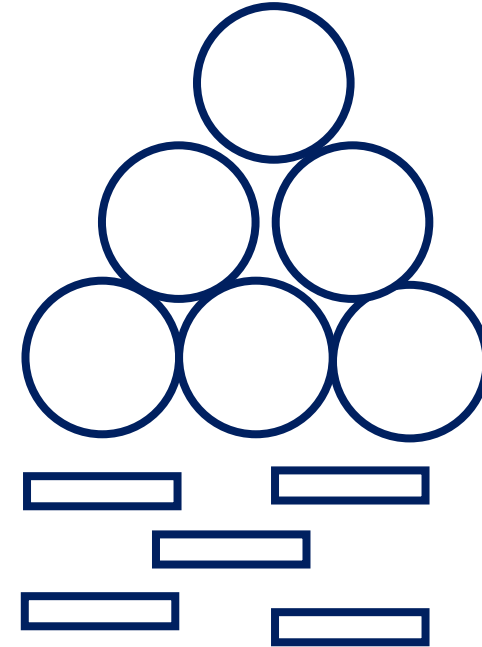
Neisseria
Brucella

- The normal percentage of CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) in the air (0.03%) is sufficient for most bacteria.
- However, some bacteria require a **much higher concentration** of CO₂ (5-10%) to grow.
 - ✓ These bacteria are called **capnophiles**.

Growth Requirement: Hydrogen ion (pH)

pH (7.2 – 7.4)
(Most bacteria)

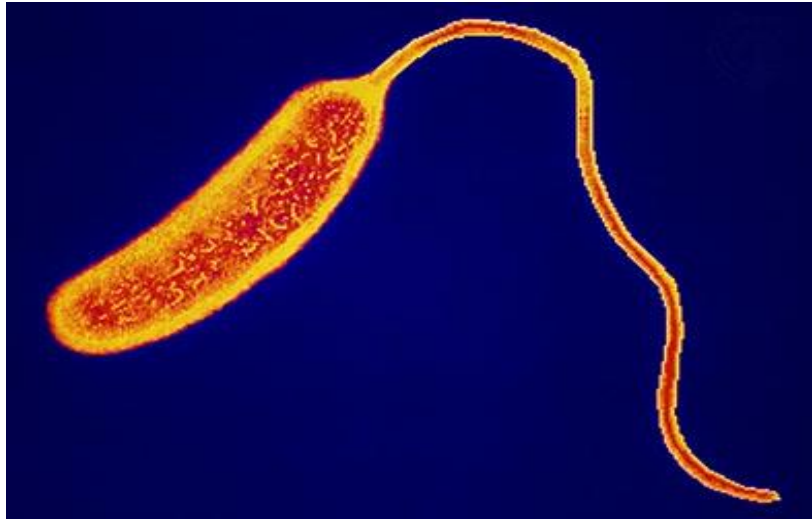
- **Neutrophils:** Most bacteria prefer a **neutral pH**, typically between 7.2 and 7.4.



Hydrogen ion (pH)

Alkaline (pH 9)

Alkaliphiles



Vibrio cholerae

Acidic (pH 4)

Acidophiles



Lactobacilli

Growth Requirement: Temperature

Mesophilic
(20–45 c)
(Most bacteria)

Psychrophilic
(0–15 c)

Thermophilic
(55–65 c)

شاركنا تعديلاتك للموديفييد عبر هذا الرابط:

اضغط هنا

جينيوم

Version	Slide No and place of error	Before Correction	After Correction

“خير الناس أنفعهم للناس”