

Organism Directory

Fusobacterium necrophorum

Introduction

F. necrophorum is classically the cause of Lemmiere's disease, a septicaemic illness with associated multi-organ involvement and, in many cases, jugular vein thrombosis. This organism may give rise to pyarthrosis and is associated with zoonotic foot rot infections.



F. necrophorum at 48hrs

Features

- Obligate anaerobe at 35-37°C
- Gram negative bacillus – long/pleomorphic
- Commensal of oral cavity and gastrointestinal tract
- Catalase negative
- Oxidase negative
- Haemolytic
- Non-spore former
- Non-motile

Appearance

F. necrophorum yields round, translucent grey colonies after 48 hours with a small zone of β -haemolysis. After five days the colonies grow larger, develop a yellow-tan colour, umbonate and take on a waxy consistency. The haemolysis becomes more marked with a larger zone at five days. Blood agar cultures fluoresce green under UV light.

