

# Actinomyces

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*Actinomyces* are **gram-positive**, pleomorphic organisms.

## Morphology and physiology

They form long branched V- and Y-shaped fibers. These fibers can break down into rods or cocci. Due to their appearance they resemble fungi, but they are bacteria (related to mycobacteria, corynebacteria, nocardia and rothia).

## Representatives

- *A. israeli*
- *A. naeslundii*
- *A. viscosus*
- *A. meyeri*
- *A. gerencseriae*

## Cultivation

Microaerophilic actinomycetes are difficult to cultivate. They grow slowly and only on special soils under anaerobic conditions. They require presence CO<sub>2</sub> and growth is supported by the addition of sugar.

## Pathogenicity

## Diseases and therapy

*Actinomycetes* cause actinomycosis.

They are treated by surgical intervention in combination with parenteral penicillin, initially in large doses.

## Diagnosis

Reliable diagnosis is possible only by microbiological evidence from the preparation and culture. Due to the complexity, it is performed only in specialized laboratories from the sent pus.

## Links

### Related articles

- Actinomycosis
- Bacteria

### Bibliography

- BEDNÁŘ, M - FRAŇKOVÁ, V - SCHINDLER, J, et al. *Lékařská mikrobiologie - bakteriologie, virologie, parazitologie*. 1. edition. Praha : Marvil, 1996. 558 pp. ISBN 80-238-0297-6.

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