C. canimorsus Serovar and Disease Severity


Address for correspondence: Guy R. Cornelis, Unité de Recherche en Biologie des Microorganismes, Université de Namur, 61 rue de Bruxelles, 5000 Namur, Belgium; email: guy.cornelis@unamur.be

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Capnocytophaga canimorsus [kap”no-si-tof’ə-gə kan”ə-mor’səs]

Ronnie Henry

From the Greek kapnos (“smoke”) for its dependence on carbon dioxide, which is a large component of smoke, Capnocytophaga canimorsus (Latin canis, “dog,” and morsus, “bite”) are gram-negative, facultatively anaerobic, rod-shaped bacteria that are part of the normal oral microbiota of dogs and cats. The genus was proposed to distinguish these bacteria from Cytophaga spp. (Greek kytos, “cell,” and phagein, “eat”), which also exhibit gliding motility. C. canimorsus was previously known as CDC group DF-2 (dysgonic fermenter type 2) and was first isolated from a man who had experienced multiple dog bites and developed septicemia and meningitis. C. canimorsus remains a major cause of septicemia in persons, particularly those who are asplenic or immunocompromised, who are bitten by dogs or cats.

Sources


Address for correspondence: Ronnie Henry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Mailstop E28, Atlanta, GA 30329-4027, USA; email: boq3@cdc.gov

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