

Lecture seventeen

Francisella

Disease Tularemia

Incubation this requirement for a complex medium for isolation and growth. The organisms are faintly staining, gram negative coccobacilli. They are non motile and obligate aerobic. *F. tularensis* is carried by many species of wild rodents, rabbit. Humans become infected by handling the carcass or skin of infected animals, through insect vectors. The capsule appears to be a necessary component for expression of full virulence, allowing the organism to avoid immediate destruction by polymorphonuclear neutrophils.

Diagnosis

Microscopy is intensive

Culture on cysteine- supplemented media, chocolate agar, is sensitive if prolonged incubation is used and specific. Serology can be used to confirm the clinical diagnosis.

Treatment

Gentamicin