University Research Compliance
Biosafety Office

Actinomyces viscosus
Pathogen Safety Data Sheet

Pathogenicity/Toxicity

A. viscosus is part of normal flora of oral cavity in humans, infection can occur upon disruption of tissue barriers but *A. viscous* has a low virulence compared to other actinomycetes. Nevertheless, it has been isolated from human dental calculus and root surface caries, as well as the oral cavity of hamsters and actinomycotic lesions in swine, cats, and dogs. In rare cases it has been shown to cause endocarditis and lung infections.

Hazard Identification

Epidemiology	Distributed worldwide
Host Range	Humans and other mammals.
Transmission	Poses very little risk to healthy individuals. People who have weakened immune systems are at risk.
Infectious Dose	Unknown
Incubation Period	Unknown
Communicability	It is assumed it can be transmitted from person to person via direct contact.

Stability/Viability

Drug Susceptibility	Penicillin, sulfadimethoxine, flucloxacillin, clindamycin, tetracycline, and ticarcillin
Drug Resistance	*A. viscosus* is usually resistant to vancomycin, metronidazole, cefalexin, and dicloxacillin.
Susceptibility to Disinfectants	Susceptible to low concentrations of chlorine, 70 % ethanol, phenolics, 2% aqueous glutaraldehyde, and peracetic acid (0.001% to 0.2%).
Physical Inactivation	Inactivation is obtained by exposure to UV rays or by heating to 55-65 °C, by moist heat (15 minutes at 121°C) and dry heat (1 hour at 160-170°C)
Survival Outside Host	Unknown

First Aid/Medical

Immunization	None
Prophylaxis	Good oral hygiene.
Treatment	Antibiotic therapy.

Laboratory Hazards

Laboratory Acquired Infections (LAIs)	None reported.
Primary Hazards	Open wounds.
Special Hazards	None

Exposure Controls

Containment	BSL-2 for all procedures involving infectious specimens or cultures; ABSL-2 for procedures involving animals.
Required PPE	At minimum, gloves, closed toed shoes and lab coat, appropriate face and eye protection when potential splashes or aerosol. Additional PPE may be required depending on lab specific SOPs.
Other Precautions	Use of BSC for procedures that may produce aerosols & those that involve high concentrations/large volumes; limited sharps usage

Exposure Procedures

Personnel Exposure	In the event that a substance enters the mouth, eyes, lungs, or penetrates/makes contact with skin: • Alert others in the lab • Remove contaminated PPE & clothing • Flush eyes/mouth with water for 5 min or wash exposed skin with soap & water
Reporting	Report immediately to the PI or lab/facility manager. Report to the Biosafety Office with 48 hours. Complete an Employee Injury Report form (if required) and submit to EHS.
Emergency Assistance	Emergency assistance can be obtained by dialing 911.
Medical Follow-up	**During Business Hours** University Health Services 1202 W. Farm Road Stillwater, OK 74078 **After Business Hours** Stillwater Medical Center ER 1323 W. 6th Ave. Stillwater, OK 74074

OSU Biosafety Office Contacts

Biosafety Officer	(405) 744-3736
Assistant Biosafety Officer	(405) 744-3203
Biosafety Specialist	(405) 744-3376