MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET - INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

SECTION I - INFECTIOUS AGENT

NAME: Moraxella spp.

SYNONYM OR CROSS REFERENCE: M. atlantae, M. bovis, M. canis, M. caprae, M. equi, M. lacunata, M. lincolnii, M. nonliquefaciens, M. osloensis, M. phenylpyruvica, Kingella kingae

CHARACTERISTICS: Gram negative short rods, aerobic, non-motile, asaccharolytic coccobacilli, occurring in pairs and short chains

SECTION II - HEALTH HAZARD

PATHOGENICITY: Parasitic on human skin, mucous membranes; invasion of the mucous membranes causes respiratory disease; ocular pathogen (4th most common source of corneal infections); other complications include otitis media, endophthalmitis, bacteremia, septic arthritis, pneumonia, purulent pericarditis, meningitis

EPIDEMIOLOGY: Worldwide, especially in persons living under poor hygienic conditions where organism is easily spread (e.g. conjunctivitis)

HOST RANGE: Humans, other mammals

INFECTIONOUS DOSE: Not known

MODE OF TRANSMISSION: Direct contact of mucous membranes with infectious agent; opportunistic pathogen found as a normal inhabitant but may be a secondary invader in the respiratory tract

INCUBATION PERIOD: Not clearly defined

COMMUNICABILITY: Not usually transmitted from person-to-person

SECTION III - DISSEMINATION

RESERVOIR: Upper respiratory tract of mammals

ZOONOSIS: None

VECTORS: None

SECTION IV - VIABILITY

DRUG SUSCEPTIBILITY: Sensitive to penicillins, cephalosporins, tetracyclines, quinolones, aminoglycosides

DRUG RESISTANCE: 85 - 100% of the isolates are resistant to ampicillin and amoxicillin

SUSCEPTIBILITY TO DISINFECTANTS: Susceptible to many disinfectants -
1% sodium hypochlorite, 70% ethanol, 2% glutaraldehyde, iodines, phenolics, formaldehyde

**PHYSICAL INACTIVATION**: Sensitive to moist heat (121° C for at least 15 min) and dry heat (160-170° C for at least 1 hour)

**SURVIVAL OUTSIDE HOST**: Glass - 3 days; insects - 4 days

**SECTION V - MEDICAL**

**SURVEILLANCE**: None

**FIRST AID/TREATMENT**: Antibiotic therapy

**IMMUNIZATION**: None

**PROPHYLAXIS**: Not usually administered

**SECTION VI - LABORATORY HAZARDS**

**LABORATORY-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS**: No infections reported to date

**SOURCES/SPECIMENS**: Respiratory specimens, throat swabs, sputum

**PRIMARY HAZARDS**: Direct contact of mucous membranes with infectious materials; accidental parenteral inoculation; inhalation of infectious droplets

**SPECIAL HAZARDS**: None

**SECTION VII - RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS**

**CONTAINMENT REQUIREMENTS**: Biosafety level 2 practices, containment equipment and facilities for all activities involving known or potentially infectious specimens and cultures

**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**: Laboratory coat; gloves when direct contact with infectious materials is unavoidable

**OTHER PRECAUTIONS**: Good personal hygiene and frequent hand washing (avoid rubbing eyes)

**SECTION VIII - HANDLING INFORMATION**

**SPILLS**: Allow aerosols to settle; wearing protective clothing, gently cover spill with paper towels and apply 1% sodium hypochlorite, starting at perimeter and working towards the centre; allow sufficient contact time (30 min) before clean up

**DISPOSAL**: Decontaminate before disposal; steam sterilization, chemical disinfection, incineration

**STORAGE**: In sealed containers that are appropriately labelled

**SECTION IX - MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

**Date prepared**: March, 2001

**Prepared by**: Office of Laboratory Security, PHAC

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