***HELICOBACTER PYLORI***

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***HELICOBACTER PYLORI***

Members of the genus ***Helicobacter* are usually spiral, curved, or fusiform rod-shaped**

**Gram-negative bacteria**. *Helicobacter* species have been isolated from **the**

**gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary tract of many different mammalian hosts,**

including **humans, dogs, cats, pigs, cattle, and other domestic and wild animals.** The

various helicobacters can be divides into two groups: *Helicobacter* species that primarily

colonize the **stomach (gastric helicobacters),** and those that colonize the **intestines**

**(enterohepatic helicobacters).** Humans are the primary host-reservoir for *H. pylori*,

which is **Gram-negative, catalase- and oxidase-positive,**a **spiral-shaped, and urease**

**positive rod**. *H. pylori* is associated with antral gastritis, duodenal (peptic) ulcer disease,

gastric ulcers, gastric adenocarcinoma, and gastric mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue

(MALT) lymphomas.

**Morphology and Identification**

**A. Typical Organisms**

*Helicobacter* species, including *H. pylori*, have many characteristics in common with

campylobacters. ***Helicobacter* species are motile and have single and/or multiple**

**monopolar flagella** that are typically sheathed and can vary greatly in their flagellum

morphology.

**B. Culture**While *H. pylori* can be readily isolated from gastric biopsy specimens, culture

sensitivity may be limited by several factors, including delayed specimen transport and

processing, prior antimicrobial therapy, or contamination with other mucosal bacteria.