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# Mycobacterium abscessus

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Mycobacterium abscessus*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C86533.

A species of aerobic, Gram positive, rod shaped bacteria assigned to the phylum Actinobacteria. This species is acid-fast, nonmotile, does not reduce nitrate, is amidase, urease and nicotinamidase positive and benzamidase, isonicotinamidase, succinamidase and acetamidase negative. *M. abscessus* is a rapidly growing mycobacterium found in water, soil and dust, and can cause a variety of serious infections of the skin, soft tissues and lungs, especially in persons with chronic lung diseases.