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Mycobacterium avium

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Mycobacterium avium*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C86535.

A species of aerobic, Gram positive, rod shaped bacteria assigned to the phylum Actinobacteria. This species is acid fast, catalase positive, niacin, peroxidase, nitrate reductase, and urease negative, and may be susceptible to p-nitrobenzoate, ethambutol, pyrazinamide, rifampin, and streptomycin. *M. avium* is found in soil and dust particles and can cause infection when inhaled or ingested, especially causing disseminated infection in immunocompromised patients.