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## Black-pigmented gram-negative anaerobes in endodontic infections.

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Necrotic dental root canal infections are polymicrobial infections dominated by anaerobic bacteria. The number of different species in one canal is usually low, approx. 4-7 species. The species isolated most frequently belong to the genera *Prevotella*, *Porphyromonas*, *Fusobacterium*, *Peptostreptococcus*, *Eubacterium* and *Streptococcus*. The frequency of isolation of black-pigmented Gram-negative anaerobes in endodontic infections varies from 25% to > 50%. *Pr. intermedia* is the most commonly found pigmented species, followed by *Pr. denticola* and two *Porphyromonas* species, *P. gingivalis* and *P. endodontalis*. Several studies have shown that *P. gingivalis* and *P. endodontalis* are closely related to the presence of acute symptoms in endodontic infections, whereas other black-pigmented Gram-negative anaerobes are not. However, several other species may also be involved in acute infections. Moreover, *Porphyromonas* species have occasionally been isolated from cases with no symptoms. Although *Porphyromonas* spp. are clearly related to symptoms at the beginning of therapy, they are not important for the prognosis of the treatment.

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PMID: 8518758, UI: 93299414

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