

# GERM THEORY OF DISEASE: KOCH'S POSTULATES

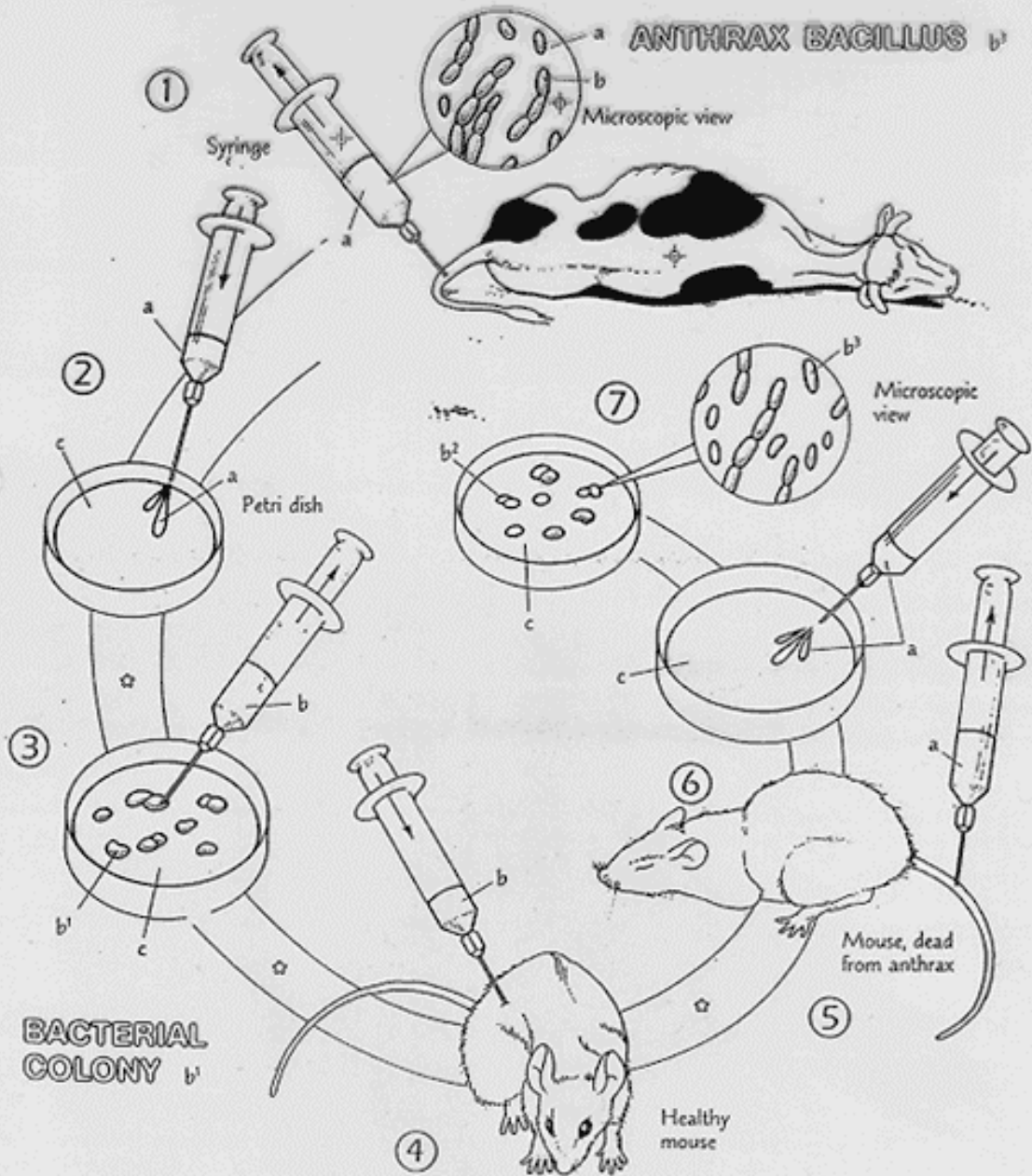
5  
KOCH'S  
POSTULATES

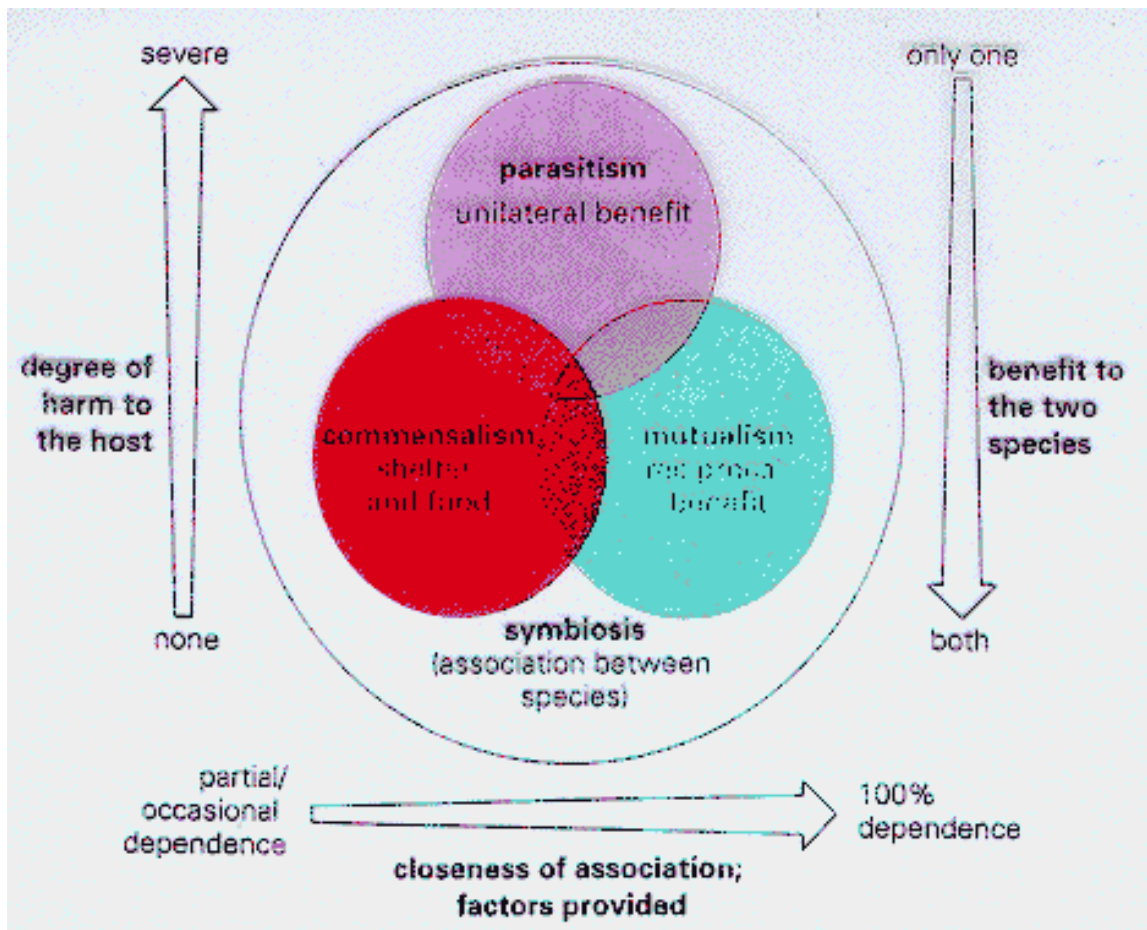
BLOOD a

BACTERIUM b

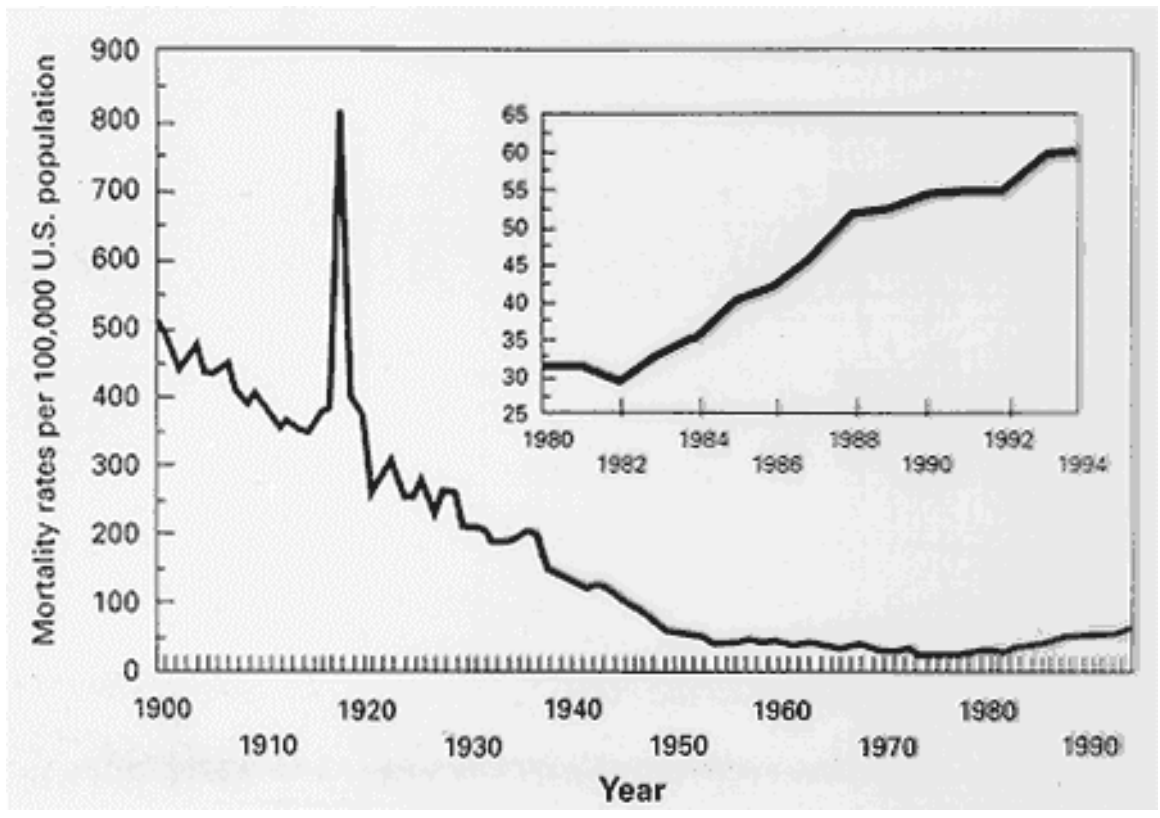
NUTRIENT MEDIUM c

ANTHRAX BACILLI COLONY b'

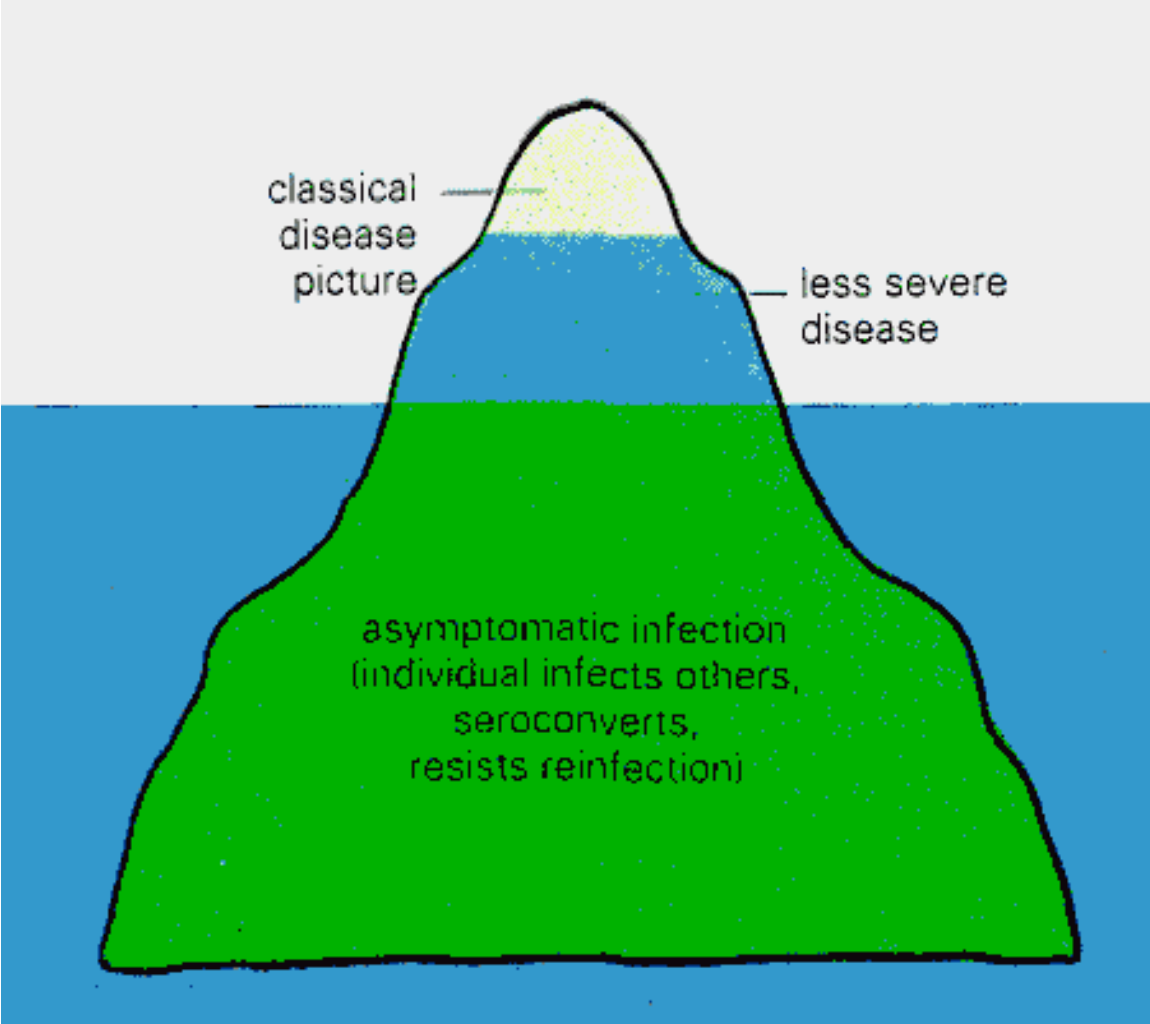




1b



1c



**Table 1.1. Obligatory steps for infectious microorganisms**

Step	Phenomenon	Requirement
1. Attachment $\pm$ entry into body	Infection (entry)	Evade host's natural protective and cleansing mechanisms
2. Local or general spread in the body	Local events, spread	Evade immediate local defences, and the natural barriers to spread
3. Multiplication	Multiplication	Multiply; many offspring will die in host or <i>en route</i> to fresh host
4. Evasion of host defences	Microbial answer to host defences	Evade phagocytic and immune defences long enough for full cycle in host to be completed
5. Shedding (exit) from body	Transmission	Leave body at site and on a scale that ensures spread to fresh host
6. Cause damage in host	Pathology, disease	Not strictly necessary but often occurs <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Some damage may be inevitable if efficient shedding is to occur (e.g. common cold, diarrhoea, skin vesicles).