

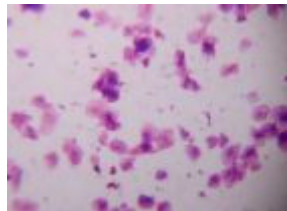
BACTERIAL REPORTS

All the pictures below came from divers who submitted cases of dive-related infections caused by bacteria. Of course, many divers don't even realize that the infections they acquire are associated with their sport!

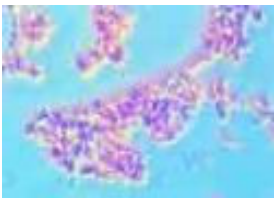
This is just a small gallery of pictures that highlight the need for awareness of the issues that scuba divers face in current diving practice. None of the problems listed here were logged on a dive accident roster as an incident due to the cases being reported at least 48 hours or more after the dive. As such they simply are not recorded as dive-related incidents.



1. Slide of bacteria taken from inside a neoprene soft boot after the person complained of a skin rash around the toes.



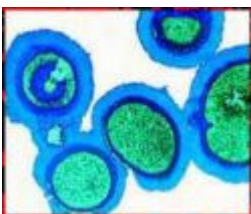
2. Slide from skin reacting to untreated neoprene.



3. Taken from a diver's BCD internal bellows, the diver having complained of sickness.



4. This from a diver who left his wet suit at home and rented a resort one. This is a syphilis-related bacteria.



5. This is staph. from a diver's wife – transferred from her husband who had used a resorts' rented regulators (presumably without clean mouthpiece).



6. This was found in a B.C.D manual inflator that had been used in a freshwater lake.



7. From a training pool in Florida. Taken from a courtesy towel. Check that 'clean' pile of towels!



8. Another 'entry' from the towel pile; this time from a training school.



9. From a dive instructor who shared equipment during instruction. No other obvious vector. Trench mouth is a painful bacterial infection.



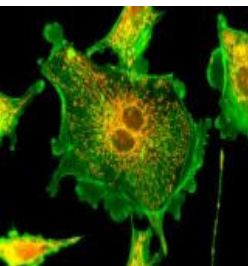
10. From a man that grazed his infected foot getting into a boat. This became a serious M.R.S.A case.



11. From a diver who rented his dive equipment (U.K incident).



12. Bacteria from a Training site. Ironically the pool was subject to regular quality checks but the side barrel of water for washing kit was overlooked



13. More bacteria. This time from a 1st stage octopus regulator which was retro-tested. Investigated when the diver complained of mouth ulcers.



14. From a diver who was out in a boat passing time with other divers. The discussion was of regulator types and some were swapped. This is (surprisingly common) oral thrush.



15. From a student diver still renting his wetsuit. He has either had a reaction to his wet suit, or the bacteria on it.



16. A different student. Again a rented wetsuit from a resort. The culprit this time was bacterial growth in the poorly maintained (unclean) interior.



18. And finally... A diver in the USA.
Cause: a rented wetsuit with hood. The hood was found to have trace amounts of blood on the inside which were attributed to initiating a rash that became a major and difficult to eradicate skin complaint – Community acquired MRSA.

Many more cases simply go unnoticed or un-attributed despite their diving-related origin.