

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910437832303321
Titolo	Host-Pathogen Interactions in Streptococcal Diseases [[electronic resource] /] / edited by G Singh Chhatwal
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, Heidelberg : , : Springer Berlin Heidelberg : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2013
ISBN	3-642-43836-9 3-642-36340-7
Edizione	[1st ed. 2013.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (258 p.)
Collana	Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology, , 0070-217X ; ; 368
Disciplina	579.3 610 611.01816 613 614 615.372 616.079 616.9/298 616.9041
Soggetti	Medical microbiology Immunology Vaccines Molecular biology Public health Bacteriology Medical Microbiology Vaccine Molecular Medicine Public Health
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Group A Streptococcal Diseases and Their Global Burden -- Molecular Markers for the Study of Streptococcal Epidemiology -- Epidemiology

and Pathogenicity of Zoonotic Streptococci -- Adherence and Invasion of Streptococci to Eukaryotic Cells and Their Role in Disease Pathogenesis -- Common Regulators of Virulence in Streptococci -- Host-Pathogen Interactions in Streptococcal Immune Sequelae -- Immunopathogenesis of Streptococcal Deep Tissue Infections -- Modulation of the Coagulation System During Severe Streptococcal Disease -- Group A Streptococcal Vaccine Candidates: Potential for the Development of a Human Vaccine -- Clinical Management of the Most Common Group A -Hemolytic Streptococcal Infections.

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Sommario/riassunto

Streptococci are Gram-positive bacteria that cause a wide spectrum of diseases, such as pharyngitis, necrotizing fasciitis and streptococcal toxic shock syndrome, as well as rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease as sequelae. Antibiotics alone have not been able to control the disease and in spite of many efforts an effective vaccine is not yet available. A prerequisite for novel and successful strategies for combating these bacteria is a complete understanding of the highly complex pathogenic mechanisms involved, which are analyzed in this volume. In ten chapters, prominent authors cover various aspects including streptococcal diseases and global burden, epidemiology, adaptation and transmission, and molecular mechanisms of different diseases, as well as sequelae, vaccine development and clinical management. This book will serve as a valuable reference work for scientists, students, clinicians and public health workers and provide new approaches to meeting the challenge of streptococcal diseases.

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