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WYBRANE ASPEKTY MOLEKULARNE NOSICIELSTWA BAKTERYJNEGO W NOSOGARDZIELI CZŁOWIEKA

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Bacterial carriage in human nasopharynx: selected molecular aspects

Abstract: many humans are symptomless carriers of such potentially pathogenic bacteria as *Streptococcus pneumoniae, Neisseria meningitidis, Haemophilus influenzae* and *Moraxella (Branhamella) catarrhalis.* The frequency of carriage rates varies greatly among people, showing dependency from age, season, living conditions and opportunity to contact the carriers by a given person. Human organisrn possesses several mechanisms that counteract microbial colonization. To successfully colonize, bacteria must adhere to host epithelial cells, evade the activity of immune system and acquire nutrients indispensable for their growth. As human nasopharynx can host several strains and bacterial species, it is also a place of frequent genetic exchange and various interactions among microorganisms, both symbiotic and antagonistic in nature. The recent developments in genomics and related approaches already have contributed and soon will lead to better understanding the phenomena occurring during the carriage and factors promoting transition to the disease state.

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