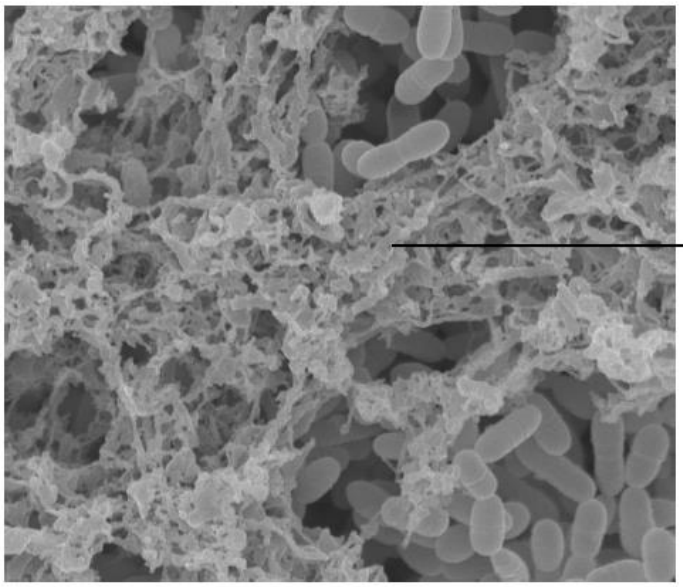
Streptococcus mutans

Tooth decay is an infectious disease. S. mutans and S. sobrinus are known to be a major pathogen to tooth decay. *S. mutans* specifically bind to tooth surface and produce insoluble sticky exopolysaccharides known as glucan. Glucan is made from sucrose by *S. mutans* glucosyltransferase and is very important to form a dental plaque. Also, this organism produces acids from carbohydrates such as glucose and sucrose, causing to tooth demineralization.

Oral bacteria including *S. mutans* are also associated with gingivitis and bacteremia. Recently, oral bacteria are also related with systemic diseases such as arteriosclerosis, diabetes, hypertension and premature birth.

Biofilm image of *Streptococcus mutans* (electron microscopy image)



Major virulence factor of *S. mutans*
biofilm formation
Acid production
Acid resistance