



Anaplasmosis

What is anaplasmosis?

Anaplasmosis is a tick-borne disease caused by the bacterium (*Anaplasma phagocytophilum*).

What are the symptoms?

People with anaplasmosis will usually have mild to moderate illness, although severe illness can occur. These are usually fever and other symptoms including headache, chills, fatigue, and muscle aches. In some cases, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite can occur.

How is anaplasmosis spread?

Anaplasmosis is spread through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. The blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) is found in southeastern and south-central Canada, including New Brunswick, and the Western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*) found in southwestern Canada. In rare cases anaplasmosis is transmitted by blood transfusion or organ transplantation.

How is anaplasmosis diagnosed?

Anaplasmosis is diagnosed based on a physician's assessment of a patient's symptoms, history of exposure to blacklegged ticks and laboratory testing.

Who is at risk of anaplasmosis infection?

The risk is highest in geographic areas where both the tick species and the pathogen that can cause human disease are found. Cases have been reported in the southeastern and south-central Canada. Older people or people with weakened immune systems are at risk for severe illness.

How can anaplasmosis be prevented?

Be Tick Smart and find out where blacklegged ticks are most likely to be found. Protect yourself against tick bites, check for ticks after coming indoors, remove ticks safely, contact a health care provider or local pharmacist for assessment of tick bites, and see a health care provider if you have symptoms of tick-borne diseases.

How is anaplasmosis treated?

Consult a health care provider for advice and treatment. Prescription medicines (antibiotics) may be used to effectively treat anaplasmosis.

A-Z DISEASE FACT SHEETS

What is the public health response?

Health care providers and laboratories must notify cases of anaplasmosis to Public Health. Public Health staff may interview the health care provider and patient (or caregivers) to find out how the infection occurred, identify other people at risk of infection, implement control measures and provide other advice.

Further Information

For additional information, contact your health-care provider, **local Public Health office** or **Tele-Care 811**.

USEFUL WEBSITES

[Tick-Borne Diseases \(gnb.ca\)](http://gnb.ca)

Public Health Agency of Canada phac-aspc.gc.ca

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