



# ANAPLASMOSIS FACT SHEET

## WHAT IS ANAPLASMOSIS?

Anaplasmosis is a tickborne disease caused by the bacterium *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*.

## HOW DO YOU GET ANAPLASMOSIS?

Anaplasmosis is primarily spread to people by the bite of an infected tick. In the United States, the bacteria is carried by the blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) in the Northeast and Midwestern United States and the western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*) along the West Coast. In rare cases, Anaplasmosis has been spread by blood transfusion. Anaplasmosis is most commonly reported in the Northeastern and upper Midwestern states

## SYMPTOMS

Signs and symptoms of anaplasmosis typically begin within 1–2 weeks after the bite of an infected tick. Tick bites are usually painless, and many people do not remember being bitten. Early symptoms (days 1-5) are usually mild or moderate and may include:

- Fever, chills
- Severe headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite

Rarely, if treatment is delayed or if there are other medical conditions present, anaplasmosis can cause severe illness. Symptoms may include respiratory failure, bleeding problems, and organ failure. Risk factors for severe illness include delayed treatment, older age, and having a weakened immune system.

## TREATMENT

Doxycycline is the recommended antibiotic treatment for anaplasmosis in adults and children of all ages. Early treatment with the antibiotic doxycycline can prevent severe illness. See your healthcare provider if you become ill after having been bitten by a tick or having been in the woods or in areas with high brush where ticks commonly live.

## PREVENTION

TREAT clothing or skin with repellants  
INSPECT yourself, clothing, and gear for ticks  
CLEAN & disinfect any area where a tick was removed  
KEEP record of the date the tick was removed  
SHOWER as soon as possible after coming indoors