Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis

Scientists used to separate ehrlichiosis into two entities caused by the bacterium _Ehrlichia_: Human Monocytic Ehrlichiosis (HME) and Human Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis (HGE). After further study, they determined that HGE is actually caused by a bacterium, _Anaplasma phagocytophilum_. HME is caused by a bacterium, _Ehrlichia chaffeensis_.

Symptoms of ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis include: fever, malaise, headaches, chills, severe muscle aches, vomiting, anemia, lung infection, decreased white blood cells and platelets, elevated liver enzymes, seizures, encephalopathy, meningitis, confusion, ataxia and cranial nerve palsy. Co-infection with Lyme can cause more severe symptoms. Death can result.

Treatment is with doxycycline.

Ticks that transmit anaplasmosis include _Ixodes scapularis_ (deer tick or black legged tick) and _Ixodes pacificus_ (western black legged tick).

Ticks that transmit ehrlichiosis (HME) include _Amblyomma americanum_ (lone star) and _Dermacentor variabilis_ (American dog). _Ixodes scapularis_ (deer tick or black legged tick) and _Ixodes pacificus_ (western black legged tick) ticks have been shown to carry the ehrlichiosis bacterium, but to date, transmission is still in question.

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