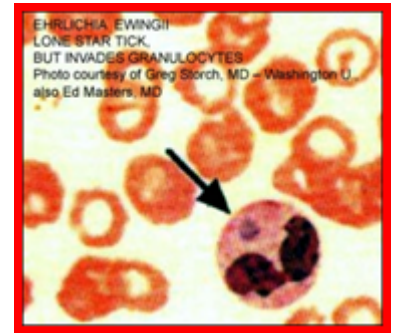


Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis

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 phagacytophilum*.



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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