



ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER

WHAT IS ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER?

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER (RMSF) IS A TICK-BORNE DISEASE CAUSED BY A RICKETTSIA (A MICROBE THAT IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM BACTERIA AND VIRUSES).

WHO GETS RMSF?

IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES, CHILDREN ARE INFECTED MOST FREQUENTLY. IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES, THE DISEASE IS MOST OFTEN SEEN IN ADULT MALES.

HOW IS RMSF TRANSMITTED?

RMSF IS SPREAD BY THE BITE OF AN INFECTED TICK. IT CAN ALSO BE SPREAD BY SKIN CONTACT WITH INFECTED TICK BLOOD OR FECES. PERSON-TO-PERSON SPREAD OF RMSF DOES NOT OCCUR.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF RMSF?

RMSF SYMPTOMS ARE A SUDDEN FEVER, SEVERE HEADACHE, TIREDNESS, DEEP MUSCLE PAIN, CHILLS AND RASH THAT BEGINS ON THE LEGS OR ARMS AND MAY SPREAD TO THE REST OF THE BODY.

WHEN DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

SYMPTOMS USUALLY APPEAR TWO WEEKS AFTER THE BITE OF AN INFECTED TICK.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR RMSF?

CERTAIN MEDICATIONS ARE EFFECTIVE AT TREATING THE DISEASE.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT RMSF?

WHEN IN TICK-INFESTED HABITATS - WOODED AND GRASSY AREAS - TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT TICK BITES, SUCH AS WEARING LIGHT-COLORED CLOTHING FOR EASY TICK DISCOVERY AND TUCKING PANTS INTO SOCKS AND SHIRT INTO PANTS. CHECK AFTER EVERY TWO TO THREE HOURS OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITY FOR TICKS ON CLOTHING OR SKIN. BRUSH OFF ANY TICKS ON CLOTHING BEFORE SKIN ATTACHMENT OCCURS. REPELLENTS CAN BE EFFECTIVE AT REDUCING BITES FROM TICKS THAT CAN TRANSMIT DISEASE.