Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF)

- Symptoms: fever, rash, headache, thrombocytopenia, hyponatremia, elevated hepatic transaminases.
- Rapidly fatal if not treated within the first 5 days.
- Rash occurs in 80% of cases, but may occur late in illness. Never wait for a rash to begin treatment.
- RMSF is transmitted by the bite of an infected tick. However, only . 60% of cases report history of tick bite.
- Serologic titers for RMSF are often negative in the first 7-10 days of illness, convalescent titers 2-4 weeks later are required for confirmation.



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Antibiotic therapy for suspected RMSF

Age category	Drug	Dosage
Adults and children ≥45 kg	Doxycycline	100 mg twice per day
Children <45 kg*	Doxycycline	2.2 mg/kg twice per day

In cases of pregnant women or persons with life-threatening tetracycline allergies, consult an infectious disease physician.

*The dose and duration of doxycycline used to treat suspected RMSF has <u>NOT</u> been shown to cause dental staining in children. This dose is recommended by the AAP and CDC to safely treat children of any age.

For more information please visit our website at <u>www.cdc.gov/rmsf</u>

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