

LabMed Report

A publication of:
Munson Healthcare Laboratories
Grand Traverse Pathology, PC
Physicians Diagnostic Support Service

**In this issue: Tick-Borne Pathogens:
Anaplasmosis/Ehrlichiosis/Babesiosis**

July 2023 Volume 11

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Michigan ticks can spread numerous human diseases including anaplasma and ehrlichia, obligate intracellular bacteria which form intraleukocytic inclusions, and Babesia, intraerythrocytic parasites resembling malaria.

We in the lab can scour for these inclusions. Patient history of tick exposure, cytopenias, and febrile illness with headache, chills, and muscle aches when requesting peripheral smear review can help laboratorians focus their evaluation for inclusions that could represent anaplasma.

Mayo Medical Lab offers a rational algorithm for testing for tick-borne illness. Molecular studies may be more helpful than serology when evaluating acute illness.

References:

1. [Acute Tick Borne Disease Testing Algorithm \(mayocliniclabs.com\)](https://www.mayocliniclabs.com)
2. [TIKLB - Overview: Tick-Borne Panel, Molecular Detection, PCR, Blood \(mayocliniclabs.com\)](https://www.mayocliniclabs.com)
3. [Anaplasmosis | Anaplasmosis | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)