






# Other Tickborne Diseases




## Powassan, Hard Tick Relapsing Fever, Ehrlichiosis, Alpha-Gal Syndrome

Maine Surveillance Report | 2023

### Powassan Encephalitis


<b>7</b> Human cases ▲ 75% increase from 2022	<b>0.5</b> Cases/100,000 people	 86% of patients (6) were male	<b>71</b> Average age (range 55-86 years)	 100% of patients (7) with neuroinvasive disease	 100% of patients (7) hospitalized
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### Hard Tick Relapsing Fever (*B. miyamotoi*)

<b>14</b> Human cases ▲ 17% increase from 2022	<b>1.0</b> Cases/100,000 people	 57% of patients (8) were male	<b>63</b> Average age (range 15-80 years)	 71% of patients (10) with positive PCR result	 21% of patients (3) hospitalized
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### Ehrlichiosis


<b>3</b> Cases ▼ 57% decrease from 2022	<b>0.2</b> Cases/100,000 people
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 67% of patients (2) were male	<b>52</b> Average age (range 25-67 years)
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 33% of patients (1) with positive PCR result	 33% of patients (1) hospitalized
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### Alpha-Gal Syndrome (AGS)

<b>9</b> Cases ▲ 900% increase from 2022	<b>0.7</b> Cases/100,000 people
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 56% of patients (5) were male	<b>59</b> Average age (range 36-77 years)
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 89% of patients (8) with GI symptoms	 0% of patients (0) hospitalized
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### Trends in 2023:

- The germs that cause Powassan and Hard Tick Relapsing Fever are present in local Maine ticks.
- People may acquire ehrlichiosis and AGS infections while traveling to states where these pathogens are present.
- Maine reported no cases of Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis or Tularemia in 2023.

### Prevention:

- **Wear light-colored clothing**, including long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks
- **Use EPA-approved repellents** for skin and clothing
- **Avoid infested areas** like wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter
- **Do a full-body tick check** including your clothing and gear when coming back indoors
- **Call a healthcare provider** if symptoms develop

### For more information visit:

- [www.maine.gov/dhhs/vectorborne](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/vectorborne)
- [www.cdc.gov/ticks](http://www.cdc.gov/ticks)