



*The Medical **Bulletin***

In Infection

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) occurs through North and Central America with concentration in the southeastern and south central U.S. states with increasing incidence in Arizona (on Indian reservations). Empiric therapy for RMSF should be considered within 5 days of symptom onset for patients with febrile illnesses and a history of a tick bite who have been in these regions in the spring or summer (May to September).

Asplenic patients (either anatomic or functional) are susceptible to infections with encapsulated organisms (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, and *Neisseria meningitidis*) and should receive appropriate vaccinations for these organisms in addition to up-to-date childhood vaccinations. Needed vaccinations should be administered 14 days before elective splenectomy, if possible

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