

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

# Rocky Mountain spotted fever

INSERM

## Source

INSERM. (1999). *Orphanet: an online rare disease and orphan drug data base. Rocky Mountain spotted fever. ORPHA:83311*

A rare, acquired, life-threatening, infectious disease due to the tick-borne bacteria *Rickettsia rickettsii* characterized by an acute onset of fever, malaise, and severe headache, variably accompanied by myalgia, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and photophobia, associating (2-5 days after fever onset) a typically erythematous, blanching or non-blanching, maculopapular rash with petechiae, starting on the wrists and ankles and progressing centrifugally to the palms and soles and centripetally to the arms, legs and trunk. Additional variable features may include conjunctivitis, mucosal ulcers, post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, jaundice, pneumonia, hepatomegaly, renal failure, meningismus, amnesia, optic disc edema, and ocular arterial occlusion.