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John Raffalli, Gary P. Wormser

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Persistence of Babesiosis for >2 years in a Patient on Rituximab for Rheumatoid Arthritis

by:

John Raffalli, M.D.¹

Gary P. Wormser, M.D.²

From the Division of Infectious Diseases^{1,2}, New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY 10595, and the Mount Kisco Medical Group, PC¹, Mount Kisco, New York 10549

Reprint requests and correspondence: Gary P. Wormser, M.D., New York Medical College, Division of Infectious Diseases, 40 Sunshine Cottage Road, Skyline Office #2N-C20, Valhalla, NY 10595.

gwormser@nymc.edu

Phone: 914 493 8865; Fax 914 493 7289

Short Title: Prolonged Babesiosis from Rituximab

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Abstract word count = 63

We report a patient who was being treated with rituximab for rheumatoid arthritis who developed *Babesia microti* infection that persisted for 26 months despite prolonged anti-babesia drug therapy. The explanation for the persistence was likely to have been the long-term immunocompromising effects of rituximab, as evidenced by seronegativity for *B. microti* antibodies that lasted for more than one year after onset of infection.

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