Babesiosis is a preventable and treatable parasitic tickborne disease caused by intraerythrocytic *Babesia* parasites.

**Where is babesiosis found in the United States?**
- Babesiosis is mainly found in particular regions including:
  - The Northeast
  - The upper Midwest
- Babesiosis has been found less frequently in other regions, including the West Coast

**Who is at risk?**
**Anyone.** People who engage in outdoor activities in areas where babesiosis is found are at higher risk for infection.

**How are *Babesia* parasites transmitted?**
- By the bite of an infected tick (most common)
- Through a blood transfusion from an infected donor
- Congenitally

**What are the clinical manifestations?**
- Infection can range from asymptomatic to severe.
- People who are asplenic, immunosuppressed, or elderly are at increased risk for life-threatening infection.
- Symptoms usually develop within 1 week to several months (or longer) after the exposure.
- Symptoms are nonspecific and may include fever, chills, body aches, or fatigue.
- Exam findings may include splenomegaly, hepatomegaly, or jaundice.
- Hemolytic anemia and thrombocytopenia are common.

**Diagnosing babesiosis**
- Diagnosis is made by microscopic examination of blood smears for intraerythrocytic Babesia parasites.
- Antibody detection by serologic testing can provide supportive evidence for infection.

**Treatment of babesiosis**
- Most asymptomatic persons do not require treatment
- For ill patients, babesiosis usually is treated for at least 7–10 days with:
  - atovaquone PLUS azithromycin; OR
  - clindamycin PLUS quinine (for severely ill patients)

**Prevention of tickborne babesiosis**
Avoiding exposure to tick habitats is the best defense. Healthcare providers should advise patients who live in or visit areas inhabited by ticks to follow these recommendations:
- Walk on cleared trails; avoid areas with overgrown grasses or brush.
- Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks when outdoors. Tuck the pant legs into the socks.
- Apply repellents to skin and clothing. Follow the instructions on the product label.
- Shower soon after being outdoors.
- Check your entire body for ticks after being outdoors. For information about the best ways to remove a tick, visit www.cdc.gov/ticks.

**Prevention of transfusion-associated babesiosis**
- No tests have been licensed yet for screening U.S. blood donors.
- If you have a patient who tests positive for Babesia infection, advise the patient to refrain from donating blood indefinitely.

For more information, please visit CDC’s babesiosis website at www.cdc.gov/parasites/babesiosis and click “Resources for Health Professionals” or contact the Parasitic Diseases Branch at 404-718-4745, parasites@cdc.gov.