

POWASSAN VIRUS

Powassan virus (POWV) is a rare tickborne arboviral infection. POWV is the only tickborne virus that is part of the arbovirus group. The presence of POWV has been documented in several tick species (*Ixodes spp.*, *Dermacentor andersoni*).

The Facts

- POWV is the only known arbovirus in ticks occurring in Wisconsin.
- POWV infections may occur after a bite from an infected blacklegged tick.
- Cases of POWV:
 - 60 total U.S. cases in 2004-2013.
 - 19 total Wisconsin reported cases in 2003-2014.

Clinical Signs

The incubation period is from one week to one month. The disease may have no apparent symptoms. Symptoms may include:

Acute Symptoms:

- Fever
- Muscle weakness
- Confusion
- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Stiff neck

Severe Symptoms:

- Confusion
- Paralysis
- Speech difficulties
- Memory loss
- Meningoencephalitis (inflammation of the brain and meninges)

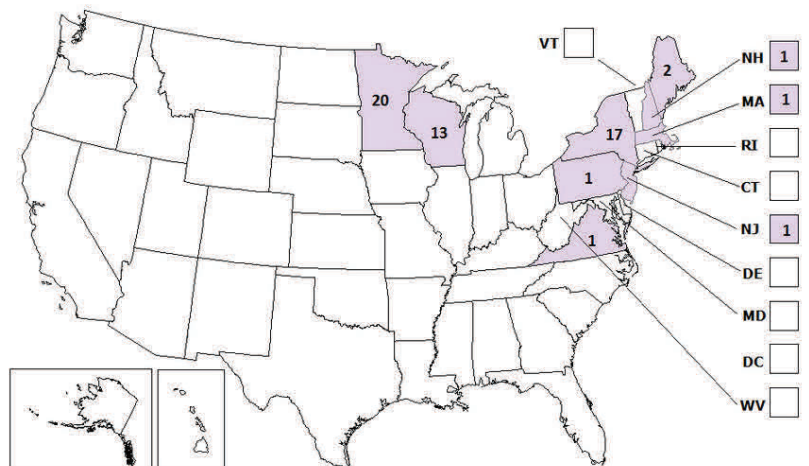
Treatment

There is no commercial test for viral detection of POWV; it can be tested at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There is no treatment at this time other than supportive care.

Powassan Cases by State (2004-2013)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Division of Public Health

Climate and Health Program

P-01109f (Rev. 04/2019)