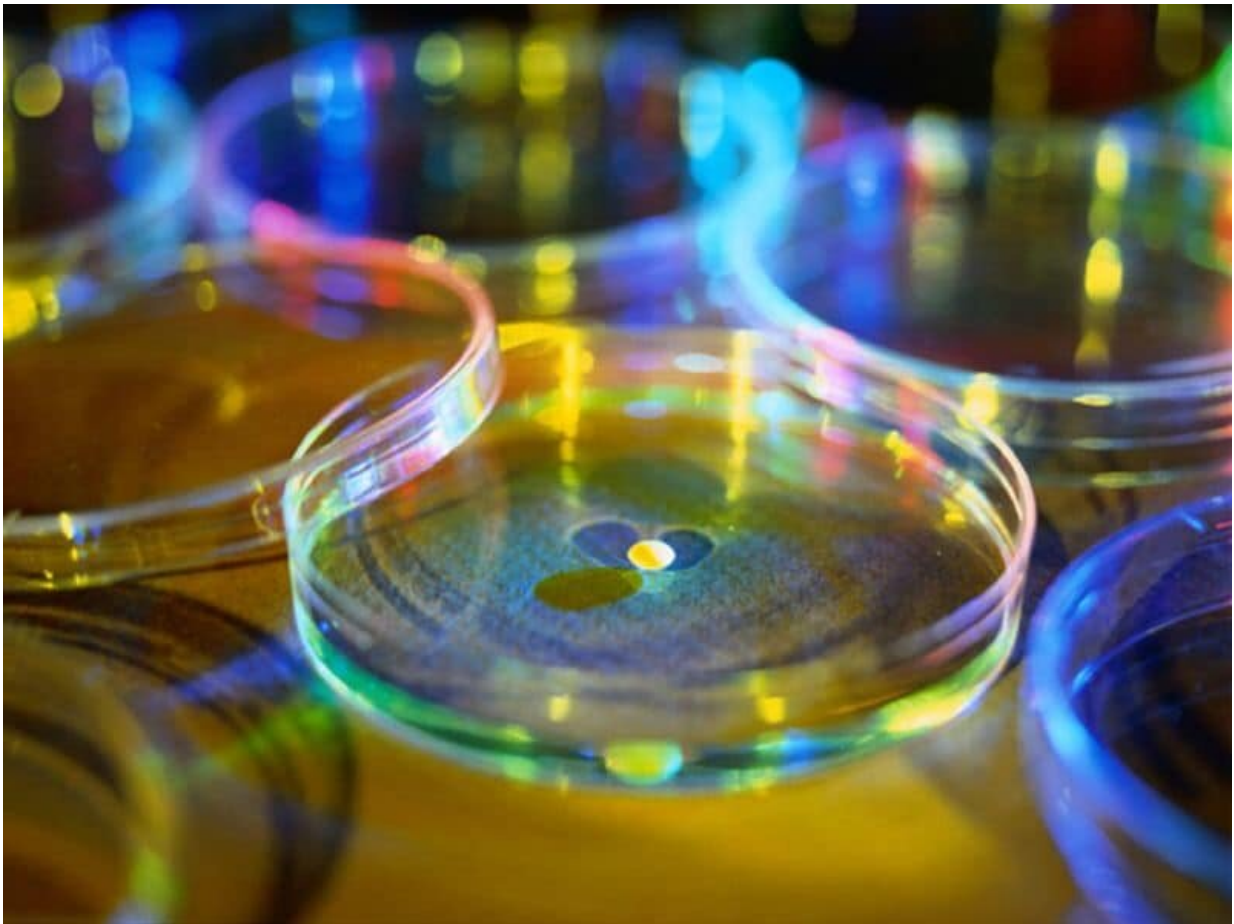


Reported cases of spotted fever rickettsioses rarely confirmed

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(HealthDay)—Only 1.0 percent of reported cases of spotted fever

rickettsioses (SFR) meet the confirmed case definition, according to research published in the March 15 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Alison M. Binder, from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues examined supplementary case report forms to analyze the quality of laboratory data used to support the diagnosis of SFR cases with illness onset during 2010 to 2015.

The researchers found that only 1.0 percent of the 16,807 reported cases met the confirmed case definition and 99.0 percent met the probable case [definition](#). For probable cases, the most common supportive laboratory evidence was elevated immunoglobulin G antibody titer by indirect immunofluorescence assay, which was reported for 88.8 percent of probable cases. Because [antibodies](#) to spotted fever group *Rickettsia* can persist for months or years following infection, a single antibody titer is unreliable for diagnosis of incident disease in the absence of a convalescent specimen.

"This analysis highlights the importance of collecting appropriately timed specimens for serologic confirmation and use of molecular diagnostic tests," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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