

Animals as Carriers of Infectious Agents Case Study Wrap-Up

1. This patient most likely has brucellosis. He is a slaughter house worker and exposed to bison, a major source of the pathogen. Undulant fever is a common symptom of this disease. The other symptoms are common to infection by many intracellular pathogens. A blood culture can be used for confirmation of the diagnosis. Antibody tests will also confirm exposure. Endocarditis, a serious complication of brucellosis and rheumatic fever should be considered despite the absence of a heart murmur.
2. The best treatment is a 4 week course of tetracycline with rifampin. This will eliminate the *Brucella*.
3. Proper use of gloves and face protection at work would reduce the exposure to *Brucella* in the workplace. It is possible that the patient contracted the disease from wild game since he is a hunter.