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LBRF epidemics occurred frequently in Europe during the early 20th century. Between 1919 and 1923, 13 million cases occurred in the social upheaval that overtook Russia and Eastern Europe, resulting in 5 million deaths. During World War II, around a million cases occurred in North Africa. Risk of infection in the United States is extremely unlikely if there was no travel to an endemic region. LBRF causes sporadic illness and outbreaks in regions of Africa, including Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia, and in congregate living settings in these regions. Illness can be severe, with reported mortality rates varying widely depending on social conditions, geography, and access to treatment. Infection with *B. recurrentis* may result in a wide range of nonspecific symptoms, such as: Though the clinical symptoms of LBRF are similar to Soft Tick Relapsing Fever (STRF), LBRF is usually associated with fewer relapses. People who are pregnant are at high risk of pregnancy loss and may be at risk of more severe illness from LBRF. LBRF occurs in regions of Africa. It is caused by *B. recurrentis*, a spiral-shaped bacteria spread from person to person by the human body louse (*Pediculus humanus humanus*) and, rarely, the head louse (*P. humanus capitis*). Body lice become infected by feeding on infected people. Transmission from louse to people typically occurs when an infected louse is crushed and the bacteria contaminate a bite wound or scratch. LBRF outbreaks most commonly occur in overcrowded conditions and areas experiencing social disruption, such as refugee camps. No other animal hosts for *B. recurrentis* have been identified. Prevent infestations of body lice to prevent LBRF and other louse-borne infections: Relapsing fever is caused by several species of

Borrelia bacteria spread by ticks and body lice. Languages Language Assistance  
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