

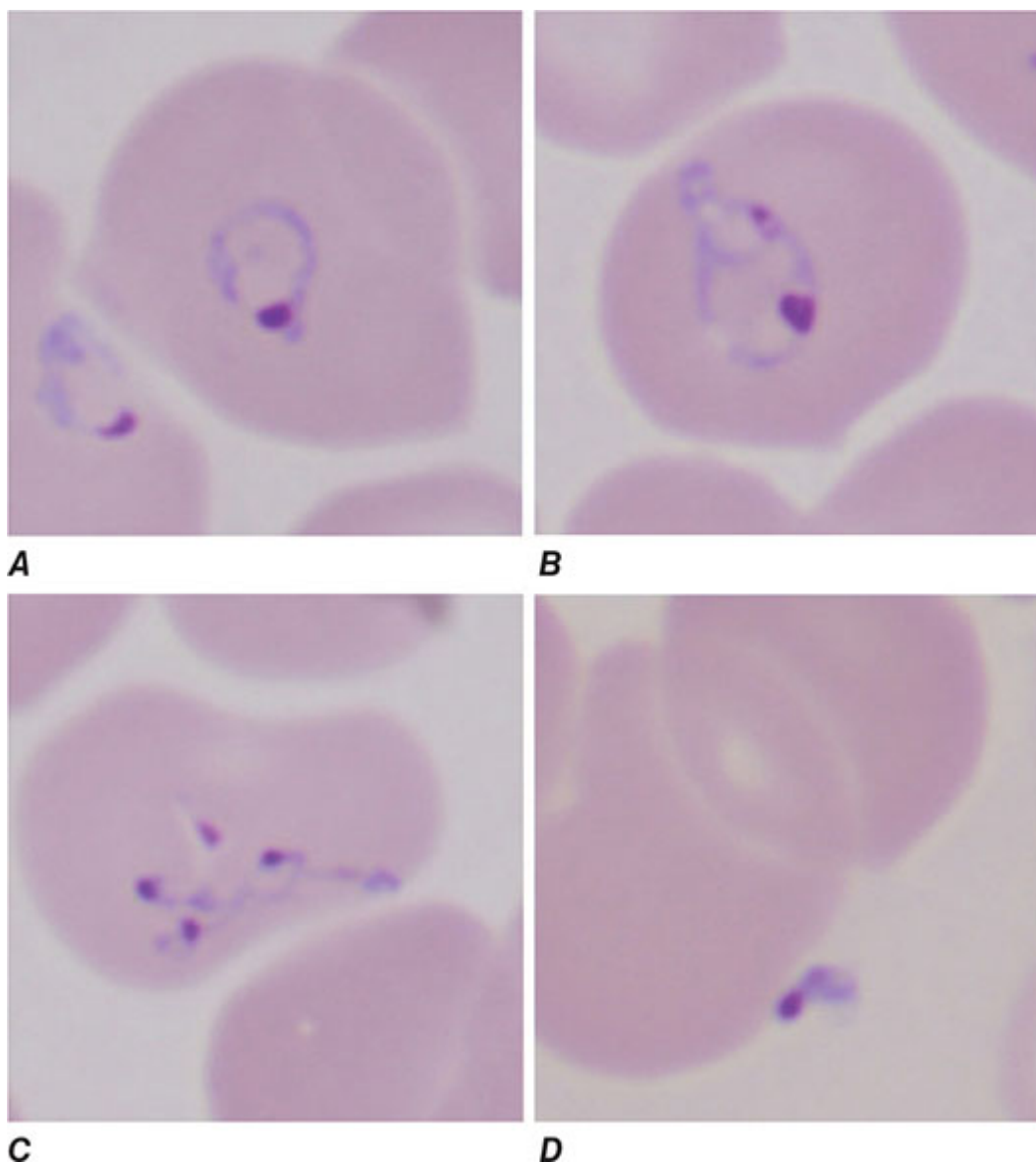


FIGURE 225-2 Giemsa-stained thin blood films showing *Babesia microti* parasites. *B. microti* is an obligate parasite of erythrocytes. Trophozoites may appear as ring forms (**A**) or as ameboid forms (**B**). **C**. Merozoites can be arranged in tetrads that are pathognomonic. **D**. Extracellular parasites can be noted, particularly when parasitemia is high. (Reproduced with permission from E Vannier, PJ Krause: Human babesiosis. *N Engl J Med* 366:2397, 2012.)

A single positive serologic result is not sufficient to establish a diagnosis of babesiosis because antibodies can persist for >1 year after the illness has resolved and the parasite has been cleared. An indirect fluorescent antibody test is most commonly used. For *B. microti*, IgM titers of $\geq 1:64$ and IgG titers of $\geq 1:1024$ suggest active