

The War on Lyme Patients

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Selected data slides from the presentation of August 15, 2007

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Based on:

“The Clinical Assessment,
Treatment, and Prevention of
Lyme Disease, Human
Granulocytic Anaplasmosis, and
Babesiosis: Clinical Practice
Guidelines by the Infectious
Diseases Society of America”

October 2006

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Who wrote these guidelines?

Gary P. Wormser	Raymond J. Dattwyler
Eugene D. Shapiro	John J. Halperin
Allen C. Steere	Mark S. Klempner
Peter J. Krause	Johan S. Bakken
Franc Strle	Gerold Stanek
Linda Bockenstedt	Durland Fish
J. Stephen Dumler	Robert B. Nadelman

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Contrary data

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Testing

NY Dept Health 1996: found CDC's 2 tiered testing
missed 82% positive Lyme cases

DeBuono, B. NY Dept of Health report to CDC April 15, 1996

Johns Hopkins study 2005: found CDC 2-tiered
testing missed 75% of positive Lyme cases

Coulter, et al., J Clin Microbiol 2005; 43: 5080-5084

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Where did they get their facts?

405 articles are cited

**OUT OF OVER 18,000 ARTICLES
PUBLISHED (less than 5%)**

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Where did they get their facts?

**40% of the articles used to develop
these guidelines were written by the
guidelines' authors**

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Do the authors believe what they say?

**“We studied 17 patients who had presented
with acute Lyme disease and received
prompt treatment with oral antibiotics, but
in whom chronic Lyme disease
subsequently developed.”**

Raymond Dattwyler, John Halperin,
New England Journal of Medicine, 1998 (319(22): 1441-6)

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Do the authors believe what they say?

**“... isolation of Borrelia burgdorferi from
the blood of seven patients with Lyme
disease four months after treatment ...”**

Gary Wormser, Robert Nadelman
American Journal of Medicine, 1990 (88:21-26)

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Do the authors believe what they say?

**“The relapses she repeatedly suffered despite
initially successful antibiotic treatment could be
related to the observation that Borrelia may
possibly be able to remain dormant in certain
tissue compartments, thus escaping bactericidal
antibiotic activity.”**

Gerold Stanek
British Journal of Dermatology, 2001 (144(2):387-392)

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Do the authors believe what they say?

**“Similarly [as in tertiary syphilis or tuberculoid
leprosy], the antigenic stimulus in Lyme arthritis
would appear to be a small number of live
spirochetes, demonstrated here by
monoclonal antibodies, which may persist in the
synovial lesion for years.”**

Allan Steere
American Journal of Medicine, 1995 (88:4A-44S-51S)

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Do the authors believe what they say?

“Lyme borreliosis is a chronic infectious disease caused by the spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*.”

Raymond Dattwyler
Reviews of Infectious Diseases, 1989 [11(6)S6; S1494-8]

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Do the authors believe what they say?

“...commercially available FDA-approved kits are only 36-70% sensitive, : the ELISA assay does not have adequate sensitivity to be part of a two tiered approach to diagnosis.”

Johan S. Bakken
Journal of Clinical Microbiology, 1997 [35(3): 537-543]

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Do the authors believe what they say?

“*Borrelia burgdorferi*, as well as other coinfections, can be transmitted from an infected mother to the fetus through the placenta during any stage of pregnancy.”

Steere et al.,
Ann Intern Med 1985; 103(1): 67-8

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Do the authors believe what they say?

“In many instances continued infection appears to be essential for symptoms to persist, no matter how small the number of organisms, as antimicrobial therapy is generally followed by clinical improvement.”

John J. Halperin
Neurology, 1992 (42:43-50)

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Do the authors believe what they say?

“57% of patients who had relapse were seronegative at the time of relapse.”

Dattwyler RJ et al., Annals of Internal Medicine 1996; 124(9):785-91

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IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines

Do the authors believe what they say?

“Currently, Lyme Disease is treated with a range of antibiotics, e.g., tetracyclines, penicillin and cephalosporins. However, such treatment is not always successful in clearing the infection. Treatment is often delayed due to improper diagnosis with the deleterious effect that the infection proceeds to a chronic condition, where treatment with antibiotics is often not useful. One of the factors contributing to delayed treatment is the lack of effective diagnostic tools.”

Raymond J. Dattwyler
Patent application for Lyme vaccine 2007

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IDSA vs. ILADS Guidelines

IDSA Says

Lyme is rare and hard to catch

10-24 days of a single antibiotic will cure all cases of Lyme

Lyme is easy to diagnose with a blood test

Chronic Lyme disease does not exist

ILADS Says

Lyme is common and easy to catch

Treat the patient until all symptoms are gone

Blood tests for Lyme are very unreliable

Lyme disease can be persistent

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IDSA vs. ILADS Guidelines

IDSA Says

Almost all patients get the bull's eye rash

Neurological Lyme disease is rare

No mention of psychiatric Manifestations

Blood tests are reliable

ILADS Says

Only 35-68% of patients ever have a rash

40% of Lyme patients have neurological involvement

Lyme can cause psychiatric symptoms

Over half of cases will have false-negative results

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IDSA vs. ILADS Guidelines

IDSA Says

The only clinical manifestation is the bull's-eye rash

The CDC surveillance criteria should be used for diagnosis

Pregnant women should not worry about Lyme disease

ILADS Says

Lyme disease requires a clinical diagnosis
Blood tests should only be used to support the diagnosis

The CDC explicitly says that their surveillance criteria should not be used for diagnosis

Lyme can be transmitted an infected mother to her baby

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For more information:

www.LymePa.org (many documents and links)

www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org (patient information and links)

www.ilads.org (for medical information and ILADS guidelines)

www.idsociety.org (for IDSA guidelines)

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