

Lyme disease despite treatment with antibiotics in humans:

Serum and CSF findings.

1. Serum

Yellow IDSA Authors

Green ILADS Authors

Authors	Text – Quotes
Duray PH, Steere AC. (1988) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2847622	“All of these histologic derangements suggest immunologic damage in response to persistence of the spirochete, however few in number”.
Dattwyler RJ, Volkman DJ, Luft BJ, Halperin JJ, Thomas J, Golightly MG. (1988) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2847622	„We conclude that the presence of chronic Lyme disease cannot be excluded by the absence of antibodies against B. burgdorferi and that a specific T-cell blastogenic response to B. burgdorferi is evidence of infection in seronegative patients with clinical indications of chronic Lyme disease”.
Preac-Mursic V, Weber K, Pfister HW, Wilske B, Gross B, Baumann A, Prokop J. (1989) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2613324	“Patients may have subclinical or clinical disease without diagnostic antibody titers to B. burgdorferi. We conclude that early stage of the disease as well as chronic Lyme disease with persistence of B. burgdorferi after antibiotic therapy cannot be excluded when the serum is negative for antibodies against B. burgdorferi”.
Cimmino MA, Azzolini A, Tobia F, Pesce CM. (1989) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2910019	“Borrelia-like spirochetes were identified histologically in the spleen; this finding was consistent with persistence of B. burgdorferi organisms in inner organs in chronic Lyme disease”.
Logigian EL, Kaplan RF, Steere AC. (1990) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2172819	“At the time of examination, chronic neurologic abnormalities had been present from 3 months to 14 years, usually with little progression”.
MacDonald AB, Berger BW, Schwan TG (1990) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1980573	“The latency and relapse phenomena suggest that the Lyme disease spirochete is capable of survival in the host for prolonged periods of time. Some patients with Lyme borreliosis may require more than the currently recommended two to three week course of antibiotic therapy to eradicate strains of the spirochete which grow slowly”.
Banyas GT. (1992) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1583267	“At present, seronegativity in persons strongly suspected of having Lyme disease does not necessarily exclude the diagnosis of Lyme disease. The clinician must recognize this in patients who may have Lyme disease or a recurrence of the disease”.
Liegner KB, Shapiro JR, Ramsay D, Halperin JJ, Hogrefe W, Kong L. (1993) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8436647	“The patient was seronegative by Lyme enzymelinked immunosorbent assay but showed suspicious bands on Western blot. Findings of a Warthin-Starry stain of a skin biopsy specimen of the eruption revealed a Borrelia-compatible structure”.
Hulínská D, Krausová M, Janovská D, Roháčová H, Hancil J, Mailer H. (1993) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8004045	“Results of studies using direct antigen detection suggest that seronegative Lyme borreliosis is not rare and support the hypothesis that Borrelia antigens can persist in humans”.
Preac-Mursic V, Pfister HW, Spiegel H, Burk R, Wilske B, Reinhardt S, Böhmer R. (1993) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8106639	“Persistence of B. burgdorferi cannot be excluded when the serum is negative for antibodies against it.”
Shadick NA, Phillips CB, Logigian EL, Steere AC, Kaplan RF, Berardi VP, Duray PH, Larson MG, Wright EA, Ginsburg KS, Katz JN, Liang MH (1994) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8085687	“Persons with a history of Lyme disease have more musculoskeletal impairment and a higher prevalence of verbal memory impairment when compared with those without a history of Lyme disease. Our findings suggest that disseminated Lyme disease may be associated with longterm Morbidity”.
Wahlberg P, Granlund H, Nyman D, Panelius J, Seppälä I. (1994) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7884218	“Short periods of treatment were not generally effective.” “To conclude, we have shown that long-term treatments beginning with intravenous ceftriaxone and continuing with amoxicillin plus probenecid or with cephadroxil were useful in the treatment of late Lyme borreliosis.” (pp. 260-1)
Lawrence C, Lipton RB, Lowy FD, Coyle PK (1995) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7796837	“Although the patient never had detectable free antibodies to B. burgdorferi in serum or spinal fluid, the CSF was positive on multiple occasions for complexed anti-B. burgdorferi antibodies, B. burgdorferi nucleic acids and free antigen”. “We believe this to be an example of a patient with chronic relapsing Bb infection”.
Waniek C, Prohovnik I, Kaufman MA, (1995) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7580195	“LD must be considered even in cases with purely psychiatric presentation, and prolonged antibiotic therapy may be necessary”.

<p>Sala-Lizarraga JA, Salcedo-Vivo J, Ferris J,</p> <p>Lopez-Andreu JA (1995)</p> <p>http://www.lymeinfo.net/medical/LDPersist.pdf</p>	<p>"We add, however, in accord with the advice of others that antibiotics should be continued in the long term, until we achieve cure or delay the progression of the disease."</p>
<p>Nanagara R, Duray PH, Schumacher HR Jr. (1996)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8892586</p>	<p>"Electron microscopy [...] adds further evidence for persistence of spirochetal antigens in the joint in chronic Lyme disease. Spirochaetes may elude host immune response and antibiotic treatment. High-dose parenteral antibiotics, or combination therapies with long duration may be needed to kill the living spirochetes." (p.1032)</p>
<p>Preac Mursic V, Marget W, Busch U, Pleterski Rigler D, Hagl S. (1996)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8852456</p>	<p>"Furthermore, the persistence of B. burgdorferi s.l. and clinical recurrences in patients despite seemingly adequate antibiotic treatment is described. The patients had clinical disease with or without diagnostic antibody titers to B. burgdorferi".</p>
<p>Petrovic M, Vogelaers D, Van Renterghem L, Carton D, De Reuck J, Afschrift M (1998)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9701852</p>	<p>"Difficulties in diagnosis of late stages of Lyme disease include low sensitivity of serological testing and late inclusion of Lyme disease in the differential diagnosis. Longer treatment modalities may have to be considered in order to improve clinical outcome of late disease stages. Several aspects of late borreliosis: false negative serology due to narrow antigen composition of the used ELISA format, the need for prolonged antibiotic treatment in chronic or recurrent forms".</p>
<p>Mikkilä H, Karma A, Viljanen M, Seppälä I. (1999)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10090586</p>	<p>"For efficient diagnosis of ocular Lyme borreliosis, immunoblot analysis and PCR should be used in addition to ELISA. A positive PCR seems to be associated with a negative immunoblot".</p>
<p>Oksi J, Marjamäki M, Nikoskelainen J, Viljanen MK (1999)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10442678</p>	<p>"The response to retreatment was considered good in nine patients. We conclude that the treatment of Lyme borreliosis with appropriate antibiotics for even more than 3 months may not always eradicate the spirochete".</p>
<p>Phillips SE, Mattman LH, Hulínská D, Moayad H. (1998)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9861561</p>	<p>"This new method for culturing B. burgdorferi from patients with chronic Lyme disease certainly defines the nature of the illness and establishes that it is of chronic infectious etiology".</p>
<p>Logigian EL et al. (1999)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10395852</p>	<p>"We conclude that Lyme encephalopathy can be treated successfully with ceftriaxone". Commentary: http://www.praxis-berghoff.de/dokumente/Behandlungsparameter_der_Neuroborreliose.pdf</p>
<p>Breier F, Khanakah G, Staneek G, Kunz G, Aberer E, Schmidt B, Tappeiner G (2001)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11251580</p>	<p>"Despite treatment with four courses of ceftriaxone with or without methylprednisone for up to 20 days, progression of LSA was only stopped for a maximum of 1 year. Spirochaetes were isolated from skin cultures obtained from enlarging LSA lesions. These spirochaetes were identified as Borrelia afzelii by sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analyses. However, serology for B. burgdorferi sensu lato was repeatedly negative. These findings suggest a pathogenetic role for B. afzelii in the development of LSA and a beneficial effect of appropriate antibiotic treatment".</p>
<p>Klempner MS, Hu LT, Evans J, et al. (2001)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11450676</p>	<p>Commentary: http://www.praxis-berghoff.de/dokumente/Behandlungsparameter_der_Neuroborreliose.pdf</p>
<p>Honegr K (2001)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11233667</p>	<p>"In 18 patients with Lyme borreliosis the authors proved the persistence of Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato by detection of the causal agent by immune electron microscopy or of its DNA by PCR in plasma or cerebrospinal fluid after an interval of 4-68 months. Clinical manifestations common in Lyme borreliosis were present in only half the patients, in the remainder non-specific symptoms were found. In nine subjects with confirmed Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato in the cerebrospinal fluid the cytological and biochemical finding was normal. Examination of antibodies by the ELISA method was negative in 7 of 18 patients during the first examination and in 12 of 18 during the second examination".</p>
<p>Grignolo MC, Buffrini L, Monteforte P, Rovetta G. (2001)</p> <p>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11317136</p>	<p>"...true positives at clinical examination but negatives at serologic tests. The obtained results suggested a good reliability of positive results obtained with the PCR technique used in this study".</p>
<p>Tylewska-Wierzbanowska S, Chmielewski T.</p>	<p>"Lyme borreliosis patients who have live spirochetes in body fluids have</p>

(2002) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12422608	low or negative levels of borrelial antibodies in their sera. This indicates that an efficient diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis has to be based on a combination of various techniques such as serology, PCR and culture, not solely on serology ".
Kaplan R et al. (2003) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12821733	Commentary: http://www.praxis-berghoff.de/dokumente/Behandlungsparameter_der_Neuroborreliose.pdf
Krupp LB, Hyman LG, Grimson R, et al. (2003) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12821734	Commentary: http://www.praxis-berghoff.de/dokumente/Behandlungsparameter_der_Neuroborreliose.pdf
Diterich I, Rauter C, Kirschning CJ, Hartung T. (2003) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12819085	„It was recently reported that Borrelia suppresses the host's immune response, thus perhaps preventing the elimination of the pathogen (I. Diterich, L. Härter, D. Hassler et al, Infect. Immun. 69:687-694, 2001)“
Fallon BA (2008) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17928580	“IV ceftriaxone therapy results in short-term cognitive improvement for patients with posttreatment Lyme encephalopathy, but relapse in cognition occurs after the antibiotic is discontinued”.
DeLong AK, Blossom B, Maloney E, Phillips SE. (2012) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22922244	“This biostatistical review reveals that retreatment can be beneficial. Primary outcomes originally reported as statistically insignificant were likely underpowered. The positive treatment effects of ceftriaxone are encouraging and consistent with continued infection, a hypothesis deserving additional study. Additional studies of persistent infection and antibiotic treatment are warranted”.

2. CSF (Commentary: http://www.praxis-berghoff.de/dokumente/Liquordiagnostik_bei_LNB.pdf)

Authors	Text – Quotes
Pfister HW (1989) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2668788	“Borrelia burgdorferi, the etiologic agent of Lyme borreliosis, was isolated from the CSF of a patient with elevated serum IgG antibody titers against B burgdorferi and a history of multiple tick bites. The absence of concurrent inflammatory signs of CSF as well as intrathecal antibody production indicates a phase of latent Lyme neuroborreliosis in which no tissue infection or reaction has yet occurred”.
Steere AC (1990) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2345301	“Intrathecal antibody determinations are the most specific diagnostic test currently available for Lyme neuroborreliosis, but local antibody production in CSF is an inconsistent finding in American patients with late neurologic manifestations of the disorder”
Kaiser R (1993) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8411090	“Intrathecal synthesis of IgM antibodies to B. burgdorferi was demonstrated in patients with neuroborreliosis by sonicate ELISA in 20 of 35 samples, by flagellin ELISA in 16 of 35 samples and by 14-kDa ELISA in 9 of 35 samples”.
Peter O. (1993) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8421774	“Isolation of Borrelia burgdorferi from the CSF is relatively rare. The present report describes the first three isolations in Switzerland. In neither of the two CSF could intrathecal synthesis of specific antibodies be demonstrated. In the third case, however, immunofluorescence showed IgG antibody titers of 1/128 in the CSF and 1/512 in serum”.
Coyle PK (1995) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7501150	“B burgdorferi antigen can be detected in CSF that is otherwise normal by conventional methodology, and can be present without positive CSF antibody. Since CSF antigen implies intrathecal seeding of the infection, the diagnosis of neurologic infection by B burgdorferi should not be excluded solely on the basis of normal routine CSF or negative CSF antibody analyses ”.
Oksi J (1996) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9010017	“We conclude that cerebral lymphocytic vasculitis and multifocal encephalitis may be associated with B. burgdorferi infection. The presence of B. burgdorferi DNA in tissue samples from areas with inflammatory changes indicates that direct invasion of B. burgdorferi may be the pathogenetic mechanism for focal encephalitis in LNB”.
Logigian EL et al. (1999) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10395852	“Months to years after classic manifestations of Lyme disease, the 18 patients presented with memory difficulty, minor depression, somnolence, or headache. Sixteen (89%) had abnormal memory scores; 16 (89%) had cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) abnormalities, and all 7 patients tested had frontotemporal perfusion defects on single photon emission computed tomographic (SPECT) imaging.... We conclude that Lyme encephalopathy can be treated successfully with ceftriaxone”.
Honegr K (2001) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11233667	“In 18 patients with Lyme borreliosis the authors proved the persistence of Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato by detection of the causal agent by immune electron microscopy or of its DNA by PCR in plasma or cerebrospinal fluid after an interval of 4-68 months. Clinical

	manifestations common in Lyme borreliosis were present in only half the patients, in the remainder non-specific symptoms were found. In nine subjects with confirmed <i>Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato</i> in the cerebrospinal fluid the cytological and biochemical finding was normal. Examination of antibodies by the ELISA method was negative in 7 of 18 patients during the first examination and in 12 of 18 during the second examination”.
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