

The Controversy(ies) over the Diagnosis and Treatment of "Lyme Disease"

This is something that you should know before you delve into the mass of information on "Lyme Disease". In a nutshell there are two major groups of clinicians... that, in my opinion, are actually "fighting" one another.

The first group, the majority, treat patients as if "Lyme Disease" is easy to diagnose and treat. Meaning, the two Tiered approach to the diagnosis of Lyme Disease is a good reliable test and after two to four weeks of antibiotics the bacteria that cause Lyme Disease have all been killed, and any symptoms left over are not due to continued infection. In the patient that is not well, they think there may be permanent damage from the infection, a persistent autoimmune illness, or another diagnosis as the reason for continued symptoms. This belief is consistent with the behavior of the vast majority of clinicians in the world.

There is another group of clinicians that basically believe that there is no good test for "Lyme Disease" and years and years of "treatment"Allopathic clinicians use years and years of antibiotics... others use other treatments (with or without antibiotics).... to maximize health. This group of clinicians find success and improvement when the other group's methods have failed..... this is what the patients tell us.

What does the scientific literature say?... well both "sides" interpret the same articles in two different ways!

What does Dr. Carr think?

Well, I have over 30 years of experience with the alternative diagnoses or complications that group number one thinks exists. I am quite familiar with the articles in the literature... It is my view the literature and clinical experience clearly support the opinions of the second group of clinicians. They are often called LLMDs or Lyme Literate MDs. I like to call myself and them "Liberal Lyme Doctors" :-).

I believe the bottom line is this:

If we leave out egos, money, and politics... we are left with the observation that most patients, that have certain symptoms, respond when they are treated with certain antibiotics, given for months to years.

Or, to put it another way, since I have added certain long term antibiotics to the treatments that I use, my success rate and rate of improvement have sky rocketed! It is my belief that the response to antibiotics can only be explained if they are treating a certain type of infection.

So, I believe long term antibiotics are helpful and necessary to the treatment of what I have been taught to call a "Lyme" or "Lyme-Like" infection. Very few clinicians know this, but there have now been three species of *Borrelia* identified, in the US, as causing illness... not just Bb that everyone talks about.