

Lyme or not?

Tom Doherty
Consultant Physician
Hospital for Tropical Diseases



“Angela”

21 year old Caucasian student

No tropical travel

GP referral to HTD from Bexhill-on-Sea

Seen in clinic May 8th 2012 with her Mum



Normally fit and well

No significant PMH

No regular medication

No concerns about HIV



Early January:

“Anaphylactic reaction” to tomatoes

Did not seek medical attention

“Dodgy” for a few days

Dizziness, photophobia



Consulted GP

Diagnosed Ear Infection

Rx: Stemetil

No improvement



January 13th:

Admitted to Conquest Hospital x 24 hours

CXR, CT head, LP – all normal

Diagnosis: Vertiginous migraine



January 16th:

Pains in joints

Inability to concentrate

Anxious +++

Consulted GP: costochondritis

No better



February 2012:

Fatigue ++

Fainted twice

“Prickling” hands and feet

Came home from University



March 2012:

Remembered she had spent two weeks in the
Lake District in September 2011

Went on the internet

Consulted GP: Could this be Lyme disease?



March 8th:

Hb 14.5 WCC 6.0 Platelets 301

ESR 10

CRP < 3

LFTs: normal

Cortisol: normal

Lyme serology (Reference Lab) - negative



GP prescribed doxycycline 100 mg bd x 2 weeks

Some improvement

Worse once course finished

Given a further 5 week course

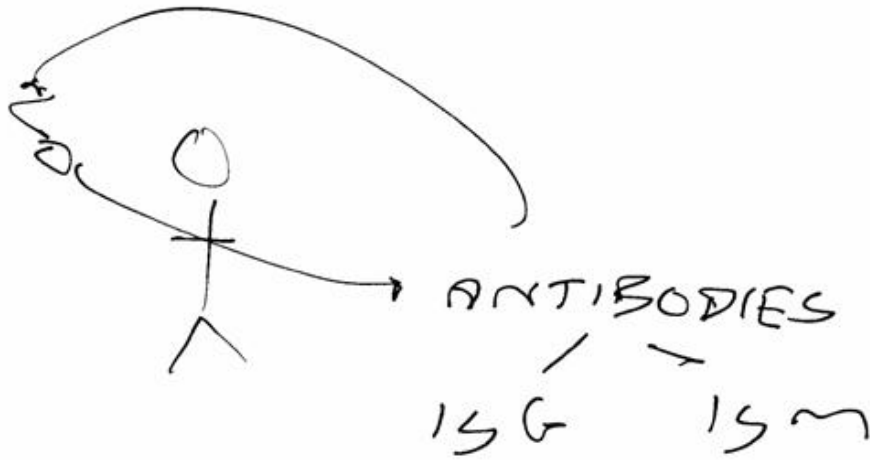


HTD OPD May 8th:

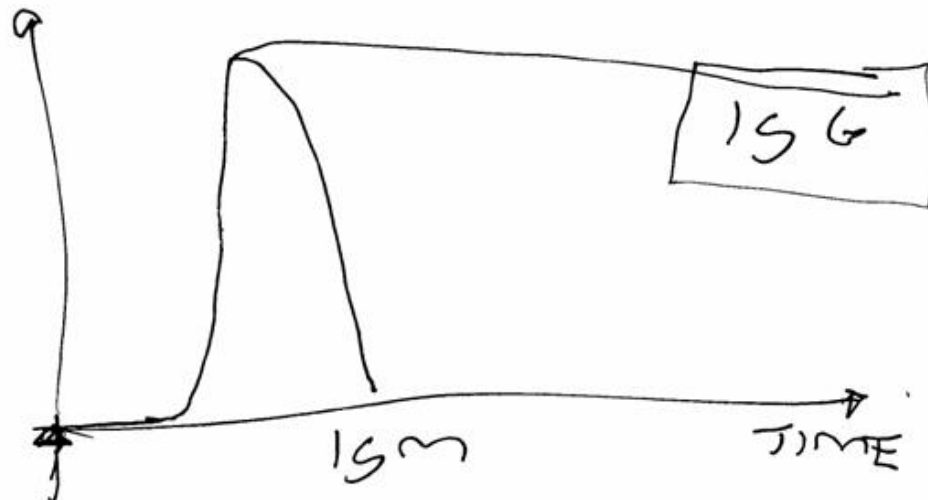
I told her I did not think that she had Lyme disease



TIME



Ab



Rude about Americans

Advised to stay away from the internet



**This list is provided by Joseph Burrascano, MD, Internist, (Ret.)
Board of Directors, International Lyme & Associated Diseases Society**

SYMPTOM OR SIGN
Persistent swollen glands
Sore throat
Fevers
Sore soles, esp. in the AM
Joint pain
Fingers, toes
Ankles, wrists
Knees, elbows
Hips, shoulders
Joint swelling
Fingers, toes
Ankles, wrists
Knees, elbows
Hips, shoulders
Unexplained back pain
Stiffness of the joints or back
Muscle pain or cramps
Obvious muscle weakness
Twitching of the face or other muscles
Confusion, difficulty thinking
Difficulty with concentration, reading, problem absorbing new information
Word search, name block
Forgetfulness, poor short term memory, poor attention
Disorientation: getting lost, going to wrong places
Speech errors- wrong word, misspeaking
Mood swings, irritability, depression
Anxiety, panic attacks
Psychosis (hallucinations, delusions, paranoia, bipolar)
Tremor
Seizures
Headache
Light sensitivity
Sound sensitivity
Vision: double, blurry, floaters
Ear pain

SYMPTOM OR SIGN
Hearing: buzzing, ringing, decreased hearing
Increased motion sickness, vertigo, spinning
Off balance, "tippy" feeling
Lightheadedness, wooziness, unavoidable need to sit or lie
Tingling, numbness, burning or stabbing sensations, shooting pains, skin hypersensitivity
Facial paralysis-Bell's Palsy
Dental pain
Neck creaks and cracks, stiffness, neck pain
Fatigue, tired, poor stamina
Insomnia, fractionated sleep, early awakening
Excessive night time sleep
Napping during the day
Unexplained weight gain
Unexplained weight loss
Unexplained hair loss
Pain in genital area
Unexplained menstrual irregularity
Unexplained milk production; breast pain
Irritable bladder or bladder dysfunction
Erectile dysfunction
Loss of libido
Queasy stomach or nausea
Heartburn, stomach pain
Constipation
Diarrhea
Low abdominal pain, cramps
Heart murmur or valve prolapse?
Heart palpitations or skips
"Heart block" on EKG
Chest wall pain or ribs sore
Head congestion
Breathlessness, "air hunger", unexplained chronic cough
Night sweats
Exaggerated symptoms or worse hangover from alcohol
Symptom flares every 4 wks.
Degree of disability

CHECK LIST OF **CURRENT** SYMPTOMS: This is not meant to be used as a diagnostic scheme, but is provided to streamline the office interview. Note the format- complaints referable to specific organ systems and specific co-infections are clustered to clarify diagnoses and to better display multisystem involvement.

Have you had any of the following in relation to this illness? (CIRCLE "NO" OR "YES")

Tick bite	N	Y	"EM" rash (discrete circle)	N	Y
Spotted rash over large area	N	Y	Linear, red streaks	N	Y

It is important to note that the CDC's published reporting criteria are for surveillance only, not for diagnosis. They should not be misused in an effort to diagnose Lyme or set guidelines for insurance company acceptance of the diagnosis, nor be used to determine eligibility for coverage.

Reprinted with permission from **ADVANCED TOPICS IN LYME DISEASE Fifteenth Edition September, 2005** DIAGNOSTIC HINTS AND TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR LYME AND OTHER TICK BORNE ILLNESSES

JOSEPH J. BURRASCANO JR., M.D. Copyright, September, 2005

For complete Burrascano Guidelines:

<http://www.lymediseaseassociation.org/drbguide200509.pdf>



May 16th:

Letter from Mum to The Chief Executive:

“It is with sadness that I am writing this letter to complain about the way both myself and my daughter were spoken to and treated by Dr Doherty at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases..”



June 11th:

Letter of apology to Mum & GP



She didn't have Lyme..



Death from inappropriate therapy for Lyme disease. Patel R *et al.* CID 2000, 31: 1107-9

30 year old woman:

6 negative EIAs

7 negative Western blots

4 negative PCRs on blood, 5 on urine, 1 CSF

I/V ceftriaxone x 8 months

Died as a result of Candidaemia



Death due to community-associated *C diff* in a woman receiving prolonged antibiotic therapy for suspected Lyme disease. Holzbauer SM *et al.* CID 2010 51: 369-70

IgM positive (2 of 3 bands)

IgG negative on Western blot

Oral cefuroxime & telithromycin x 4 months

Died 5 weeks into treatment

