

Re: NEWSGROUP FAQ'S– Transmission Myths

Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.med.diseases.lyme/2004–12/0888.html>

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On 23 Dec 2004 23:55:23 GMT, jwismille@aol.com (JWismille) wrote:

>Fear, ignorance and Internet rumors have also created an environment for
>expanding the mythology of Lyme's protean properties far beyond scientific fact
>or medical observation. For example, a recent spat of Internet postings has
>suggested that Lyme can be acquired through sexual contact.
>
>"I think that Lyme is also a STD [sexual–transmitted disease]," said one
>newsgroup poster. Another wrote, "I've talked to many couples who claim they
>transmitted to each other through sexual contact. I believe I gave it to my
>wife."

Lyme disease is a spirochete with pathology similar to syphilis.
Lyme spirochetes/DNA have been recovered from stored animal semen,
nursing mother's breast milk and umbilical cord blood by PCR
(confirmed by culture/microscopy). Fact not fiction.

>
>At least one "Lyme specialist" appears to be telling patients that Lyme is
>sexually transmitted and therefore their family members should be tested. One
>person reported to Quackwatch that a family member had been tested and told
>that the test was positive and that a 4–5 month course of antibiotics was
>necessary.
>
>There is no basis for such advice. The infection is acquired from the bite of
>an infected tick. People are "dead end" hosts and do not spread Lyme infections
>to others.
>
>The topic of pregnancy and Lyme is also rife with rumor and unnecessary fear.
>During a quarter of a century of research and surveillance, there have been no
>documented cases of mother–child transmission and no cases of fetal injury
>associated with a Lyme infection. Recent attempts to demonstrate venereal,
>transplacental and contact transmission of Lyme spirochetes in hamsters have
>also failed [25]. In contrast, a case of perinatal transmission of human
>granulocytic ehrlichiosis (HGE) was reported in the New England Journal of
>Medicine [26]. Like *B. burgdorferi*, HGE is transmitted by the *Ixodes* tick, and
>simultaneous infections with both have been reported.
>

Must I prove over and over what an idiot you are. Ask any vet whether Lyme is passed down to offspring.

Borrelia burgdorferi infection in dairy cows, rodents, and birds from four Wisconsin dairy farms.

Burgess EC, Wachal MD, Cleven TD.

Department of Medical Science, University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine, Madison 53706.

A combination of culture and subsequent spirochete identification with the polymerase chain reaction technique was used to identify cows, rodents, and birds infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Animals were trapped on four Wisconsin dairy farms during the summer of 1990. Farms 1 and 2 were located in counties nonendemic for Lyme disease and Farms 3 and 4 were located in counties endemic for Lyme disease. The results of the rodent and bird samples were as follows given as the number yielding organisms number tested: Farm 1, 1/17 *Mus musculus* and 2/52 *Peromyscus domesticus*; Farm 2, 4/49 *M. musculus*, 1/2 *P. maniculatus*, 1/1 *P. leucopus*, and 1/35 *P. domesticus*; Farm 3, 0/27 *M. musculus*, 0/5 *P. leucopus*, 0/12 *P. maniculatus* and, 3/58 *P. domesticus*; and Farm 4, 1/24 *M. musculus*, 2/19 *P. leucopus*, 1/12 *Microtus pennsylvanicus*, and 0/17 *P. domesticus*. One *P. leucopus* and one *M. musculus* from Farm 2 were pregnant and fetal tissues from both were positive. Cow blood sample results were as follows: Farm 1, 7/47 in July, and 2/45 in August; Farm 2, 0/28 in August and 0/23 in October; Farm 3, 0/13 in July and 1/18 in August 29; and Farm 4, 3/45 in August. Ticks were found on rodents on Farm 4 and on one bird on Farm 3. Spirochetemic cows, rodents, and birds were found in non-Lyme endemic counties suggesting that alternate modes of transmission other than by ticks may be important. Transplacental transmission was shown in *M. musculus* and *P. leucopus*.

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