



# *Lyme Disease Association, Inc.*

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## **LYME DISEASE IN TEN POINTS**

1. Lyme is the most prevalent vector-borne disease in the United States.
2. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), only 10 % of Lyme disease cases meeting the CDC criteria are reported each year, thus approximately 240,000 new cases of Lyme meeting the CDC criteria occur each year in the US, and it is now a problem worldwide.
3. Patients with Lyme disease often have co-infections with babesia, Ehrlichia, bartonella, or other organisms, clouding the diagnostic and treatment picture.
4. Lyme disease, the great imitator, can be misdiagnosed as MS, ALS, chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, autism, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's
5. The bite from a tick that is infected with the Lyme disease bacteria can lead to neurologic, cardiac, psychiatric as well as arthritic manifestations in humans.
6. Children are at the highest risk of acquiring Lyme disease, and there have been studies showing significant IQ drops in students with Lyme— reversed after treatment.
7. Lab tests for Lyme are not reliable, and you can test negative and still have the disease.
8. Lyme disease can cross the placenta and cause birth defects or death of the fetus.
9. It is estimated from 15%-30% of those infected with Lyme may develop chronic disease, and according to the Red Cross, patients diagnosed with chronic Lyme disease should not give blood
10. A rash does not always occur with Lyme disease, and symptoms may occur days or months after a tick bite.