

## 8 Signs That Your Aches and Pains May be Due to Lyme Disease and other Tick-Borne Infections

- 1. You have more than one symptom!
  - a. Lyme disease is a multisystemic illness
  - b. The Classic constellation of symptoms are:
    - i. Fatigue
    - ii. Pain
    - iii. Insomnia
    - iv. Cognitive problems
- 2. Symptoms come and go with good and bad days.
- 3. Your pain MIGRATES around your body.
  - a. **Migratory joint pain**, muscle pain and nerve pain that come and go are classic for Lyme
- 4. In women, symptoms tend to worsen right before, during and after the menstrual cycle.
  - a. Estrogen aggravates Lyme symptoms
  - b. You might feel worse with estrogen from bio-identical hormones or birth control pills.

## 5. Symptoms worsen or improve after antibiotic therapy

- a. Someone might take antibiotics for an unrelated infection, like a urinary tract infection, and notice that their symptoms improve or worsen.
- b. Worsening symptoms can happen when bacteria die as molecules of inflammation get released into the bloodstream. This is called a Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction.
- c. Sometimes you feel much better with the antibiotics, as the antibiotic will treat some of the chronic tick-borne infection.
- 6. **Bartonella** (a type of tick-borne infection) is associated with **cystitis** (burning urinary) and **neuropathy**, often of the feet.
  - a. If you have unexplained cystitis and/or neuropathy, consider Bartonella testing.
- 7. **Babesia** (another type of tick-borne infection) is associated with unexplained **night sweats** and **shortness of breath** (air hunger).
- 8. Lyme disease is the only disease that causes MIGRATORY NERVE PAIN!
  - a. If you have migratory nerve pain or neuropathy that varies day-to-day consider testing for Lyme disease

Please ask us about Lyme Disease and Co-infection Testing and How to Establish a Lyme Diagnosis.

Thanks!

Emily Rowe, MD, L. Ac. & Christopher Estes, MD, MPH

1680 Meridian Ave Suite 603 Miami Beach, FL 33129 (305) 397-8229