

LYME DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC CHECKLIST

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To aid the clinician, a workable set of diagnostic criteria were developed with the input of dozens of front line physicians. The resultant document, refined over the years, has proven to be extremely useful not only to the clinician, but it also can help clarify the diagnosis for third party payers and utilization review committees.

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.

LYME BORRELIOSIS DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA	RELATIVE VALUE
Tick exposure in an endemic region	1
Historical facts and evolution of symptoms over time consistent with Lyme	2
Systemic signs & symptoms consistent with Bb infection (other potential diagnoses excluded):	
Single system, e.g., monoarthritis.	1
Two or more systems, e.g., monoarthritis and facial palsy..	2
Erythema migrans, physician confirmed.	7
Acrodermatitis Chronica Atrophicans, biopsy confirmed	7
Seropositivity	3
Seroconversion on paired sera	4
Tissue microscopy, silver stain	3
Tissue microscopy, monoclonal immunofluorescence	4
Culture positivity	4
<i>B. burgdorferi</i> antigen recovery	4
<i>B. burgdorferi</i> DNA/RNA recovery	4

DIAGNOSIS

Lyme Borreliosis Highly Likely.....	7 or above
Lyme Borreliosis Possible.....	5-6
Lyme Borreliosis Unlikely.....	4 or below

I suggest that when using these criteria, you state Lyme Borreliosis is "unlikely", "possible", or "highly likely" based upon the following criteria"- then list the criteria.