

Symptoms of Lyme

By: [Jaclyn Hughes](#) on January 31, 2017

Lyme Disease is raking in a reported 300,000 new cases each year confirmed just in the United States alone. The often debilitating illness has become a major concern for parents and those who own pets as well, considering your furry friends can also become incredibly sick from a tick bite.

The symptoms of Lyme can be treated mostly through the help of antibiotics, but if it has been a long time since the tick bite originally occurred and was never diagnosed, severe symptoms may begin to set in within weeks. More and more patients are being diagnosed with an advanced version of Lyme disease, so without question, take this disease very seriously. Let the statistics speak for themselves with these top states having the most confirmed cases of Lyme disease:

- Pennsylvania (coming in at the highest with 6,470 cases, doubling their number since 2011)
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Wisconsin
- New Jersey
- Delaware
- New Hampshire
- Connecticut
- Rhode Island
- Massachusetts
- Vermont
- Maine

Most affiliate Lyme disease with those that are always outdoors camping, or assume it mostly affects boys, and this cannot be further from reality. It is transmitted through deer tick bites, which could frankly happen at any point when you may be outside. Just think about how much time you spend in the great outdoors with your family or friends, and how proactive you now need to be to steer clear of developing this horrible illness.

With over 200,000 cases per year in the U.S., take the time for yourself to carefully review the following top 10 symptoms of Lyme disease:

1. Rashes

The most common Lyme disease telltale sign is a rash. This easily identifiable rash begins to form a "bull's eye shape", or look like a target.

It can begin to form anywhere from 3-30 days after the initial tick bite. Most patients report their rashes showing up after one week of noticing the insect bite.

The rash area is warm and usually does not cause pain or even itchiness, it's just present or noticeable.

Some patients opt to put home remedy natural products on their rash, such as coconut oil. This option is totally up to you if you get any healing or rash relief from the products.



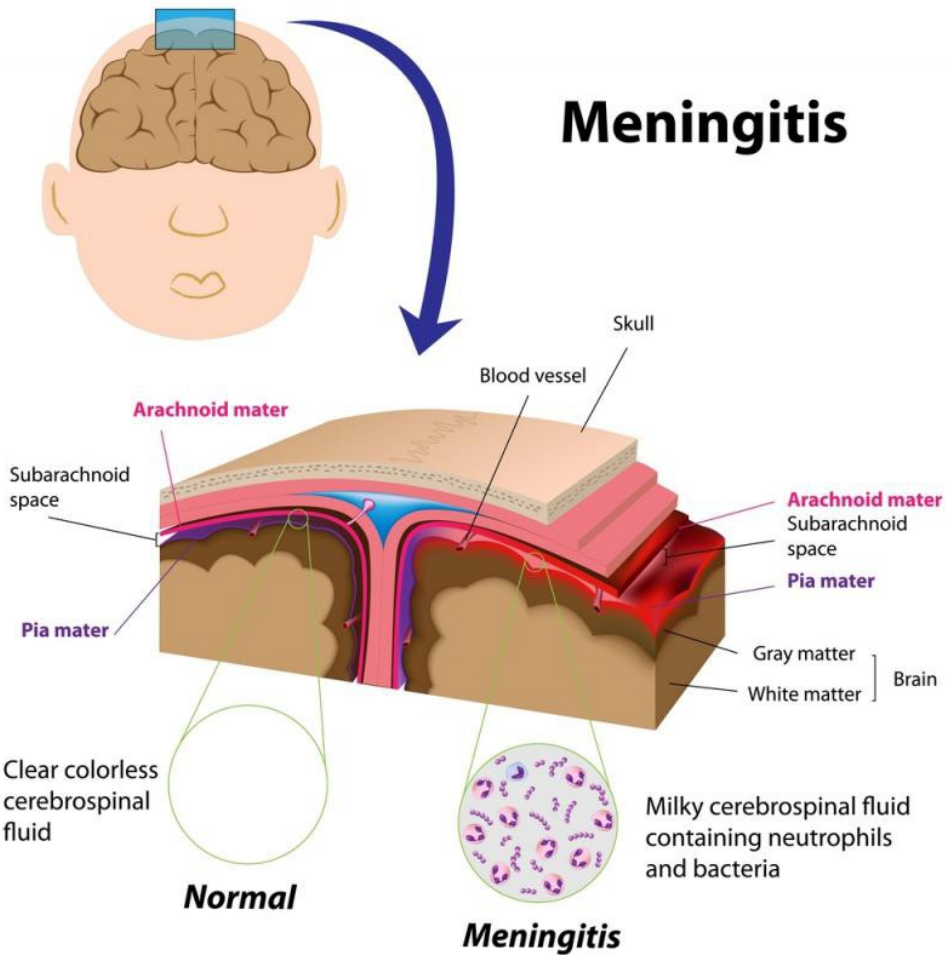
2. Meningitis

Lyme disease can cause swelling around the membrane of your brain (better known as meningitis).

Meningitis is well known as an often fatal illness, but in this particular sense, it is usually less severe. Many children with Lyme disease for instance often develop meningitis, but they can often be treated for it at home as it is rarely severe enough to require hospitalization.

Some symptoms to look out for would be a severe headache, pain in the back, neck, and spine specifically, fever, vomiting, and often blurred vision.

Meningitis



3. Neurological Issues

Lyme has a way of manipulating the brain into thinking you're really not sick, but then slowly starting to chip away at pivotal neurological functions.

Patients begin to experience memory loss, trouble focusing, depression, anxiety, emotional tantrums, or total personality changes from day to night. Sensory disturbances, shoulder droop, sensitivity issues, cranial nerve palsy, or double vision.

Of course these symptoms could also be signs of various forms of mental illness, so always speak candidly with your doctor to find the real cause of any recent neurological changes.

4. Joint Pain

A reported 60% of Lyme disease sufferers develop forms of joint pain or even arthritis within months of their initial tick bite.

It is common to settle where there are larger joints such as the knees, shoulders, and wrists. The joints begin to appear swollen, then the soreness and pain start to develop.

This can cause severe arthritic issues for a patient that went non-diagnosed for quite some time without having any knowledge of their Lyme disease, and unfortunately this delay in treatment is also common.

Many doctors with training in Lyme Disease are open to various forms of treatment for joint related pain as a result of this illness, from holistic measures, to prescription pain medications depending on the specific needs of the patient.

5. Flu Symptoms

Flu symptoms develop with just about any viral infection, and are commonly misdiagnosed for that exact reason.

Body aches, fevers, cold symptoms, and feeling just plain lousy are not just symptomatic of the flu, but also signs of Lyme disease. The good news is, it isn't the flu, and with just basic over the counter remedies it goes away in a few days.

This type of flu spell isn't preventable through getting a flu vaccine annually, as this is a few days of flu like symptoms that are as a result of Lyme settling inside the body. You'll have to invest in some bed rest for at least a few days, and increase your clear liquids. If no improvement, then without question see your physician before you go several days vomiting, or not being able to hold basic foods in your system as you could require IV fluids to avoid dehydration.

6. Swollen Lymph Nodes

Lyme disease often causes the lymph nodes in the neck area to become swollen. This can mimic a cold or strep throat, so be certain to consult with your doctor and have the needed testing to determine what is causing the swelling.

Lymphatic system is tissue and organs that help your body expel toxins or anything it just doesn't want inside. Swelling of the nodes is a clear sign that Lyme is backing up or clogging in a sense your lymphatic system.

If the lumpy neck look doesn't subside in a few days and has no other symptoms of a cold or flu, you may need to go to a specialist. Remember that you have lymph nodes all over your body, so some patients have swelling in their nodes in the neck area, and others have noticeable swelling in other nodule areas.

7. Eye Inflammation

Some patients suffer from a form of optic inflammation, caused by Lyme disease. The eyes can swell up, look red, become sore, and not look too pretty overall.

They also report double vision, and blurry vision as well, which are all related to Lyme disease.

If the eye starts to feel itchy, it probably isn't an optic reaction of Lyme disease, but something else possibly caused by an allergy. Which is good news as eye allergy problems can generally be cleared up with over the counter products or prescription eye drops issued by your local optometrist, or primary care doctor.

8. Fatigue

Fatigue is basically a form of exhaustion, or feeling tired when your body just hasn't been overworked.

When Lyme disease patients say that they are tired, they really aren't kidding. It has awful fatigue effects on adults and children equally.

Many patients have to take naps during the day, go to bed very early, or sleep in much longer than they ever have before. It takes away a large part of their daily life from having to always stop what they are doing to rest or sit down. If this sounds familiar, speak to your physician about getting a work excuse to apply for a leave of absence if Lyme is causing this type of exhaustion. You can become injured, or suffer a fall or car accident from extreme Lyme fatigue.

9. Heart Palpitations

Anytime your heart begins to show signs of trouble, you should take it very seriously.

Heart palpitations are rather typical for Lyme disease patients as the body changes its heartbeat from the effects of the tick bite.

Dizziness sometimes accompanies the heartbeat changes, and usually this is merely symptomatic of the ailment and not a serious cardiac issue.

If at any such time you are experiencing chest pains, stiffness, or tightness in that area, get to an urgent care center immediately as these can be signs of a heart attack and require serious medical protocol.

10. Hepatitis

Hepatitis is when the liver is inflamed and severely sick. It can result in stomach pains, special diet restrictions, and a slew of other issues to work through.

Generally, this side effect is from late disseminated Lyme disease, which is when the patient wasn't diagnosed in time for their tick bite and it starts to attack the body after so many weeks without treatments.

Some early symptoms are having dark urine, aching, eye color turning yellow, and nausea.

11. Bell's Palsy

Bell's Palsy is when the facial muscles start to weaken but only on one side of the face. The face begins to lose its ability to perform functions such as smiling, winking, frowning, and so forth.

is an interesting ailment that affects some that don't have Lyme disease as well; and it is a loss in muscle strength inside the face. It can affect one or both sides of the patient's face, and often looks like the face is stuck in an expressive state or only able to move on one side versus both.

Chewing food, speaking, and showing emotions such as laughter may be difficult once Bell's palsy sets in

12. Hair Loss

Many people with Lyme disease have also experienced hair loss.

The root cause of the hair loss from Lyme disease is still currently unknown, but there is some correlation. The leading theory is the inflammatory response caused by Lyme disease released endotoxins.

As more of these toxins are released, hair loss increases. This can be gradual and not occur suddenly as in a large clump of hair coming out in the shower, or in a hair brush and some patients don't even notice their hair loss symptom from Lyme.

If there is any silver lining to hair loss, this type does grow back after you have recovered from Lyme disease.

Lyme Disease can often be painful.