GET IT RIGHT... TREAT THE BITE!

Everyone agrees, the sooner treatment begins after a bite by an infected tick, the better! Ticks live in dirt and consume blood meals from a number of animals that can carry multiple disease causing organisms. Ticks are known to be infected with pathogens that can spread through the body quickly, causing a variety of mild to life-threatening symptoms.

Do not depend on Lyme tests performed within a month of a tick bite! Nearly everyone will test negative within the first 1-3 weeks after being bitten by an infected tick (barring prior exposure). It reportedly takes weeks for your body to produce a level of antibodies to the Lyme bacterium that can be measured using the current testing methods.

Tests for Lyme disease have been shown to miss 75% of people who are infected!

Recommendations below are from the Advanced Topics in Lyme Disease, by Dr. Joseph Burrascano (pages 19 & 20).

"TICK BITES - Embedded Deer Tick With No Signs or Symptoms of Lyme (see appendix):

Decide to treat based on the type of tick, whether it came from an endemic area, how it was removed, and length of attachment (anecdotally, as little as four hours of attachment can transmit pathogens).

The risk of transmission is greater if the tick is engorged, or of it was removed improperly allowing the tick's contents to spill into the bite wound. High-risk bites are treated as follows (remember the possibility of co-infection!):

1) Adults: Oral therapy for 28 days.
2) Pregnancy: Amoxicillin 1000 mg q6h for 6 weeks. Test for Babesia, Bartonella and Ehrlichia.
   Alternative: Cefuroxime axetil 1000 mg q12h for 6 weeks.
3) Young Children: Oral therapy for 28 days."

"EARLY LOCALIZED - Single erythema migrans [Lyme rash] with no constitutional symptoms:

1) Adults: oral therapy- must continue until symptom and sign free for at least one month, with a 6 week minimum.
2) Pregnancy: 1st and 2nd trimesters: I.V. X 30 days then oral X 6 weeks 3rd trimester: Oral therapy X 6+ weeks as above. Any trimester- test for Babesia and Ehrlichia.
3) Children: oral therapy for 6+ weeks."

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