

Borrelien trotz Antibiose, Tier **Lyme disease despite treatment with antibiotics in animals**

Gelb = IDSA Autoren **Yellow** = IDSA Authors

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American Lyme Disease Foundation. I.S. receives grants from the NIH and CDC. S.O'C. has served as an expert witness at a General Medical Council Fitness to Practice hearing in relation to Lyme disease. No conflicts exist for the other authors”.

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“The agent of Lyme borreliosis, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, evades host immunity and establishes persistent infections in its varied mammalian hosts. This persistent biology may pose challenges to effective antibiotic treatment. Experimental studies in dogs, mice, and non-human primates have found persistence of *B. burgdorferi* DNA following treatment with a variety of antibiotics, but persisting spirochetes are non-cultivable. Persistence of *B. burgdorferi* DNA has been documented in humans following treatment, but the significance remains unknown.

The present study utilized a ceftriaxone treatment regimen in the C3H mouse model that resulted in persistence of non-cultivable *B. burgdorferi* in order to determine their long-term fate, and to examine their effects on the host. Results confirmed previous studies, in which *B. burgdorferi* could not be cultured from tissues, but low copy numbers of *B. burgdorferi flaB* DNA were detectable in tissues at 2, 4 and 8 months after completion of treatment, and the rate of PCR-positive tissues appeared to progressively decline over time.

However, there was resurgence of spirochete *flaB* DNA in multiple tissues at 12 months, with *flaB* DNA copy levels nearly equivalent to those found in saline-treated mice. Despite the continued non-cultivable state, RNA transcription of multiple *B. burgdorferi* genes was detected in host tissues, *flaB* DNA was acquired by xenodiagnostic ticks, and spirochetal forms could be visualized within ticks and mouse tissues by immunofluorescence and immunohistochemistry, respectively. A number of host cytokines were up- or down-regulated in tissues of both saline- and antibiotic-treated mice in the absence of histopathology, indicating host response to the presence of non-cultivable, despite the lack of inflammation in tissues”.

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