

A case of Lyme carditis in Mexico

Monday, January 07, 2019

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The previously healthy woman presented to the emergency room with a sudden-onset of dyspnea and chest pain. She had reported a syncopal episode 4 days prior to being admitted to the hospital. Her EKG revealed a third degree heart block.

The woman, who lived in Nuevo Leon, had traveled in the past 4 weeks to an area of Mexico considered endemic for Lyme disease.

[According to Jiménez-Castillo and colleagues](#), a recent study found that in the Northeast region of Mexico, seroprevalence was of 3.91% for Nuevo Leon, 6% for Coahuila and 14% for Tamaulipas.

The woman did not report having a tick bite or erythema migrans rash. But, Lyme disease was suspected due to the absence of another etiology and her recent travel history.

She was prescribed an empirical 21-day course of IV ceftriaxone and received a temporary pacemaker.

Test results were positive for Lyme disease. “An enzyme linked immunosorbent assay for IgM antibodies against *B. burgdorferi* was reported positive,” the authors state, “and later this exam was corroborated by a positive immunoblot analysis.”

The woman continued to require cardiac pacing, so a permanent pacemaker was placed.

The authors urge the medical community “to consider the diagnosis [of Lyme carditis], particularly in young patients with high degree AV block without an apparent cause.”

Note: Further research will be needed to examine the reasons for the high prevalence of *B. burgdorferi* in certain regions of Mexico.

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References:

1. R.A. Jiménez-Castillo et al. Journal of Electrocardiology 52 (2019) 109–111.

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