Azithromycin gel fails to prevent Lyme disease

Friday, January 13, 2017

http://danielcameronmd.com/azithromycin-gel-fails-to-prevent-lyme-disease/

by Daniel J. Cameron, MD MPH

The findings of this double-blinded placebo controlled clinical trial were published in *The Lancet Infectious Disease*. In a post hoc analysis of 134 subjects, the authors were able to prevent 6 rashes if the gel was applied after a tick bite. The gel delayed the onset of EM rashes by 33 and 51 days, respectively, in an additional two subjects.[1]

The trial did not show that the 10% azithromycin gel could prevent Lyme disease. It only demonstrated that the gel could prevent or delay a few EM rashes in a subset of patients bitten by a tick.

It would be nice to have a quick fix to prevent Lyme disease following a tick bite. But treatment with azithromycin gel is not the answer. Based on this trial, the gel should not be used to prevent Lyme disease.

References: