

## How long do symptoms of Lyme disease last?

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<https://danielcameronmd.com/how-long-do-symptoms-of-lyme-disease-last/>

The symptoms of Lyme disease can be severe. Patients often report having extreme fatigue, sleep disturbances, mood disturbances, poor memory and concentration, headaches, dizziness, neck pain, tingling in hands and feet, and joint pain.

We do not know how long symptoms of Lyme disease last. But chronic and debilitating manifestations have been described, such as:

1. Lyme encephalopathy <sup>1,3</sup>
2. Lyme neuropathy <sup>4</sup>
3. Neuropsychiatric Lyme disease <sup>5</sup>
4. Pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome – PANS <sup>6</sup>
5. Lyme carditis <sup>7</sup>
6. Autonomic dysfunction – POTS <sup>8</sup>
7. Post-treatment Lyme fatigue – Post-Lyme disease <sup>9</sup>
8. Neuropathic pain <sup>10</sup>
9. Persistent symptoms after Lyme disease <sup>2</sup>
10. Lyme disease with co-infection (e.g. Babesia) <sup>11</sup>

Some Lyme disease patients fail treatment. They may fail to get better or they may relapse. Understandably, patients want to know how long do symptoms of Lyme disease last? But there is no definitive, universal answer. Every patient is different and the cause behind persistent symptoms continues to be debated.

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While some scientists argue that chronic symptoms are due to a persistent infection with *Borrelia burgdorferi* or other tick-borne pathogens, others dismiss this. They believe that ongoing illness is due to an immune dysfunction triggered by the initial infection. These patients are often diagnosed with Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome (PTLDS). <sup>12</sup>

Editor's note: There are too many Lyme disease patients who have suffered for years without being diagnosed and properly treated. We can do better. I am opposed to the term and diagnosis of PTLDS until we have a reliable test that can rule out a persistent tick-borne infection.

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