

# Lyme disease as a reversible cause of chronic illness for some patients

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<https://danielcameronmd.com/lyme-disease-cause-chronic-illnesses/>

Might Lyme disease cause chronic illness? Studies indicated that Lyme disease can lead to chronic illness including Lyme [encephalopathy](#), [5] Lyme neuropathy, [6] chronic neurologic Lyme disease, [6] and Neuropsychiatric Lyme disease. [7]

Could Lyme disease be a reversible cause of a chronic illness in some patients? Having a high index of suspicion will prevent missing the diagnosis.

Following are dozens of published papers, described in an *Inside Lyme Blog* series, which features cases in which Lyme disease was a reversible cause of other chronic medical conditions. [8]

## Brain Diseases and Neurological Disorders

80-year-old with Lyme encephalopathy [instead of dementia](#)  
Chronic [post-concussion syndrome](#) symptoms due to Lyme disease  
POTS patients with brain fog have [neurocognitive deficits](#)  
When it looks like a [brain tumor](#), but it is Lyme disease  
Untreated Lyme disease triggers a [stroke in 9-year-old boy](#)  
Lyme podcast: man with [Lyme disease and stroke](#)  
Child with Lyme disease presenting as [pseudotumor cerebri](#)  
Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy ([CIDP](#)) case resolved with antibiotics  
Lyme meningitis, [manifesting as parkinsonism](#), is fully reversed with ceftriaxone  
[Seizures](#) and altered mental status after a tick bite  
[Dementia and normal pressure Hydrocephalus](#)  
Cognitive issues [following a stroke](#) due to Lyme disease  
[Stroke as a manifestation](#) of Lyme disease  
Lyme disease causes ['false brain tumor' in young child](#)

## Cardiac Disease

Broad range of presentations for [Lyme carditis cases](#)  
Lyme carditis presenting [as atrial fibrillation](#) treated successfully  
First report of Lyme disease causing [mitral valve endocarditis](#)  
[Lyme endocarditis](#) in 68-year-old avid outdoorsman  
Another cardiac manifestation of [Lyme myocarditis](#)  
When Lyme disease [mimics a heart attack](#)  
Physician-turned-patient becomes Lyme advocate - [required a heart transplant](#)

## Autonomic Disorders

[POTS](#): an autonomic disorder in Lyme disease patients  
[Subacute transverse myelitis](#) caused by Borrelia infection  
[Femoral neuropathy](#) as a neurologic symptom of Lyme disease  
Autonomic dysfunction, [small fiber neuropathy](#) and Lyme disease  
[Acute transverse myelitis](#) in a 25-year-old man with Lyme disease

## **Sleep Disorders**

Lyme disease is associated with [various sleep disorders](#)

## **Psychiatric Illnesses**

16-year-old boy with Lyme disease [presenting as depression](#)  
Don't confuse somatic symptoms with [depression in early Lyme disease](#)  
[Oppositional behavior](#) in children with Lyme disease  
Can Lyme disease trigger [obsessive compulsive symptoms?](#)  
[Depression common](#) in Lyme disease patients  
[Suicidal behaviors](#) in patients with Lyme and associated diseases  
7-year-old girl with Lyme disease [presenting as attention deficit disorder](#)  
Treatment options for an [anxious, suicidal patient](#) with a history of Lyme disease

## **Movement Disorders**

[Subacute Parkinsonism](#) as a complication of Lyme disease

## **Auditory Problems**

Study finds [hearing loss and tinnitus common](#) in patients with tick-borne diseases  
Lyme disease patient with [permanent tinnitus and hearing loss](#)

## **Autoimmune/Immune System Disorders**

Lyme podcast: [Sjögren's syndrome](#) secondary to Lyme disease  
Can Lyme disease trigger an autoimmune disease? - [Adult-onset Still's disease \(AOSD\)](#)  
Lyme disease mimics autoimmune disorder in elderly woman – [dermatomyositis](#)  
Could Lyme disease be another infection associated with the onset of [Guillain-Barre syndrome?](#)  
[PANDAS and Lyme disease](#) in a 7-year-old child

## **Dermatological Conditions**

6-year-old girl with a rare cutaneous presentation of Lyme disease - [areolar lymphocytoma](#) involving her breast  
Lyme disease mimics [cellulitis skin infection](#)  
Lyme disease [misdiagnosed as shingles](#) in 62-year-old man

## **Sensory Impairments**

[What is that smell?](#)

## **Eye or Ocular Disorders**

Study looks at [uveitis due to Lyme disease](#)

69-year-old man with [Lyme disease and double vision](#)

[Visual changes](#) due to Lyme disease

Growing [list of eye problems](#) in Lyme disease

Lyme disease causes [vision loss in 46-year-old woman](#)

## **Inflammatory Disease**

Can Lyme disease [trigger sarcoidosis?](#)

## **Joint Infections**

Lyme disease [mimics prosthetic joint infection](#) following knee replacement

## **Gastrointestinal Illnesses**

Neurologic Lyme disease presenting as [abdominal pain in 71-year-old patient](#)

Lyme disease [manifests as abdominal pain](#) in young child

## **Kidney Disease**

Doctors recognize Lyme disease in a [patient with kidney disease](#)

[Kidney failure](#) and disseminated rashes associated with Lyme disease

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**Conclusion:** Substantial variability exists in the presenting features and clinical course of patients with Lyme disease. A diagnosis depends upon a thorough clinical evaluation, physical and neurologic examinations, along with laboratory testing. An accurate diagnosis and proper treatment can improve the outcome if Lyme disease is the cause of a chronic illness.

## **References:**

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  8. Inside Lyme Science blog. <https://danielcameronmd.com/daniel-cameron-md-lyme-blog/> Last accessed 12/19/20.

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