

Lyme disease triggers vertigo and hearing loss

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A recently published study by Sowula and colleagues provides further evidence that Lyme disease can trigger vertigo and hearing loss. In their article [“Vertigo as one of the symptoms of Lyme disease.”](#) the authors examine the frequency of vertigo symptoms and potential labyrinth damage in patients with diagnosed Lyme disease.⁴

The study included 38 patients (ages 20 to 77) with Lyme disease, who were hospitalized at University Hospital in Krakow, Poland, between 2018 and 2019, due to vertigo or dizziness.

“One alleged group of diseases which can trigger vertigo involves infectious diseases of the nervous system,” the authors explain.

“Many pathogens are said to be in part responsible for inflammation; among them are spirochetes of *Borrelia* [the causative agent of Lyme disease] as well as other pathogens transmitted by ticks.”

The study found:

- 76% of the Lyme disease patients reported vertigo (54% of them were women compared to 22% of men);
- Hearing loss and tinnitus were symptoms which frequently accompanied vertigo;
- 1 in 3 patients experienced sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL), which was bilateral in 2 individuals and presented as sudden deafness in 2 other individuals. The hearing loss was significant for high frequency hearing loss but not low frequency hearing loss;
- Tinnitus was reported in 3 out of 5 of the Lyme disease patients, the majority of whom experienced high frequency tinnitus.

“Increasingly, tick-borne illnesses [such as Lyme disease] are a potential cause of neurological symptoms reported by patients, including hearing loss, tinnitus, ataxia and vertigo.”

The authors conclude:

“It [vertigo] is frequently connected with labyrinth damage and hearing-organ impairment, which suggests that in the course of this disease the inner ear or nerve VIII is dysfunctional ... Antibiotic therapy is effective in reducing otoneurological symptoms.”⁴

Related Articles:

[Lyme disease patient with permanent tinnitus and hearing loss](#)

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

[Video: Co-infections of Lyme disease](#)

References:

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