

## Young kids and the elderly in New Hampshire are at greatest risk of a tick bite

Monday, April 24, 2017

<http://danielcameronmd.com/young-kids-elderly-new-hampshire-greatest-risk-tick-bite/>

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More than 10,359 tick bite encounters were documented in 25 acute care hospitals in New Hampshire between 2010 and 2014. Twenty-five of the 26 acute care hospitals participated.

[According to Daly from the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services](#), “6% and 22% of tick bite-related ED encounters occurred in children 5 and under and adults 65 years and older, respectively.” Furthermore, males accounted for more than half (58%) of the tick bite-related ED encounters.

Children and the elderly were most likely to have been evaluated in the ED and are the most difficult to diagnose if they develop an atypical rash or another manifestation of Lyme disease.

The authors highlighted the need for both provider and patient education. “Results of ED data analyses can be used to target education, in particular for ED providers and the public through timely distribution of evidence-based educational materials and training programmes,” Daly says.

It would be reasonable to alert patients that a single 200 mg dose of doxycycline can prevent a rash but has not been proven to prevent other manifestations of Lyme disease or co-infections.

Related posts:

[Neuropsychiatric presentations of Lyme disease in children and adolescents](#)

References:

1. Daly ER, Fredette C, Mathewson AA, Dufault K, Swenson DJ, Chan BP. Tick bite and Lyme disease-related emergency department encounters in New Hampshire, 2010-2014. *Zoonoses Public Health*. 2017.

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