

Orthopaedic Connection

Lyme Disease – Orthopaedic Aspects

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Transforming patient information into patient understanding.

In Michigan, Spring and Summer are when people encounter infections related to tic bites.

Tic bites are usually harmless. Not always though. Tics can pass on organisms that cause serious illness. Antibiotic treatment is successful especially if treatment is started early.

Two Tic Related Diseases

- Lyme Disease
Transmitted by the deer tic.
It is brown and smaller than a wood tic.
Deer tics are found throughout the U.S.
Only a few deer tics are infected.
A red circle rash forms around the bite.
You feel like you have the flu.
Arthritis may develop which is where I come in.
Other heart and neurological symptoms can be present.
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
The second most common tic infection in the U.S.
Found throughout the country.
Caused by many tics – wood, dog, others.
First week after the bite. Rash on wrist, ankles, even the chest.
Flu symptoms
Occasionally joint symptoms
Serious complications can affect heart, kidney, lung and brain.
- There are several other rare tic borne infections.

Orthopaedic Aspects

After you have been bitten the rash appears. Then fever, stiff neck, muscle aching, joint pains, swollen lymph nodes.

Laboratory Tests

Most recommended tests are blood tests that measure antibodies made in response to the infection. The test can be falsely negative in patients with early disease, but they are quite reliable for diagnosing later stages of the disease.

Treatment

The earlier that tic illnesses can be identified and treated the better. I have to be thinking about the possibility of tic infection.

If diagnosed early the antibiotic, doxycycline is the drug of choice.

Intravenous antibiotics (IV) are sometimes needed.

Complications

These infections are especially severe in older persons and in those persons with suppressed immunity.

I'm not seeing a large number of these cases, but I have to be aware of the possibility in people with arthritis symptoms because they can be the most important presenting symptom, that is arthritis.

My patients put their trust in me and what I do improves the quality of their lives

Gratiot County Herald Archive and Office Website

I sincerely appreciate all of you loyal readers and patients present and future and welcome to all newcomers!

Besides what you read today there is a huge treasure trove of Orthopaedic and musculoskeletal information at www.orthopodsurgeon.com. It contains the 1) Website Library 2) Your Orthopaedic Connection 3) complete archive of every GCH article I have written.

I specialize in you. Be well.

Dr. Haverbush