Lorraine Johnson, JD, MBA, Chief Executive Officer of LymeDisease.org delves into the importance of meaningful patient representation on the Federal HHS Tick-Borne Disease Working Group (TBDWG) in her latest blog. This is especially important as we await the announcement of panelists to the new TBDWG charged with the next report to Congress due in 2020. A recent patient survey conducted by lymedisease.org found “To be a meaningful representative, patients chosen for a panel should: a) have or be a caregiver to a patient with chronic Lyme disease and b) should be an officer or director or someone vetted and approved by a recognized and trusted patient advocacy group (PAG) or someone approved by a PAG.” Read the entire blog by Lorraine Johnson here: 


“Bitten” Book Review
The debate over the prevalence of Lyme disease and whether it exists in a chronic form has raged for decades. Kris Newby’s well researched book provides documented evidence that the suspicions of disease sufferers, their advocates, and treating physicians deserve investigation. The properties of the pathogen itself and its ally, the tick, appear to be part of our nation’s biowarfare studies.

Swiss American scientist Willy Burgdorfer is acclaimed for identifying the spirochetal bacteria which causes Lyme disease. Indeed, the pathogen bears his name, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Yet as the author discloses through filmed interviews and archival reviews, there were other aspects to Willy’s research. Employed by the US government and headquartered at Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Burgdorfer was enmeshed in biological warfare projects. Ms. Newby discusses his work in Switzerland for the American government which led to the identification of a new strain of *Rickettsia*, a pathogen if crossed with *Borrelia* might well complicate treatment and thus be a candidate for biowarfare. Interviews by Ms. Newby with American researchers on the topic of the *Rickettsia*, dubbed the Swiss agent by Dr. Burgdorfer, did not shed any light on the mystery pathogen whose existence seems to be buried in the past.

Ms. Newby’s discovery of tick drops and the experimental release of ticks document ongoing biowarfare research and questions the consequences if studies go awry. The prevalence of new diseases and the expansion of tick territories are examined in the context of now revealed government studies.

Ultimately, whatever mix of causes is responsible for the Lyme and other tick-borne diseases epidemic in the US, the
solutions, as strongly stated by Kris Newby, lie with better science, advanced research and proper funding.

Click here for YouTube video of Under Our Skin, Director, Andy Abrams and Kris Newby discussing her new book.

Click here to purchase Bitten on amazon.com

Click here for other purchasing options of Bitten on HarperCollins.com

New Book Exposes Secret Lyme Disease & Bioweapons Link

UNDER OUR SKIN Director Andy Abrahams Wilson interviews Kris Newby, author of “Bitten: The Secret History of Lyme Disease and Biological Weapons.” May 1, 2019
– UnderOurSkin.com

New Lyme Vaccine in Clinical Trials: Update!
An article on a new vaccine for Lyme disease, “New Effort for Lyme Disease Vaccine Draws Early Fire,” by Sumathi Reddy, appeared in the Wall Street Journal on July 9, 2018. The article, which includes a quote by LDA President, Pat Smith, reports that a European company, Valneva SE, is in clinical trials for a vaccine for Lyme disease, which has been fast tracked by the FDA. *(see 4/28/19 update at end of article)*

A company official estimates it will take at least five years before it becomes commercially available. The vaccine is similar to Lymerix, by Smith Klein Beecham (SKB), now GlaxoSmithKline, which was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in December 1998 but was withdrawn from the market in 2002 due to low demand.

“We don’t feel that there has been enough research done to answer the questions as to what occurred with the prior vaccine,” says Patricia Smith, president of the Lyme Disease Association Inc., a New Jersey-based national nonprofit group, which raises money for Lyme research, education and patient support. “The vaccine that is now in development is something with the same base. There were a lot of patients that thought they were harmed from that vaccine. It’s very problematic.”

Check out the history of Lymerix and efforts by the LDA and others to get the facts behind the vaccine and its withdrawal—individuals who took the vaccine who spoke at the FDA on the problems they felt were related to the vaccine; class-action lawsuits that alleged it caused serious side effects; and a meeting requested by LDA at the FDA where LDA brought in a vaccine expert and physicians who were seeing patients with problems they felt were connected to receiving the vaccine.

**Update on Lyme vaccine 4-28-19** On July 2017, Valneva received
from the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) a Fast Track Designation for VLA15. On April 4, 2018, Valneva presented Phase 1 interim results of the vaccine at the World Vaccine Congress in DC. In December of 2018, Valneva announced the initiation of Phase 2 Clinical Trial Development to determine the optimal dosage level and schedule for use in Phase 3 field efficacy studies, based on immunogenicity & safety data.

Click here for a history of the LDA’s involvement with the FDA and the Lymerix vaccine

Click here to read full Wall Street Journal article

Philadelphia Inquirer on Lyme Vaccine and Attorney’s Op-Ed

The Philadelphia Inquirer published an article regarding the development of a vaccine for Lyme disease, October 2013. The article is titled, “It’s Time to Develop a Vaccine for Lyme Disease, Doctor Says” by Ilene Raymond Rush. We are providing a response to that article by Stephen A. Sheller, founding partner of Sheller, P.C., a national whistleblower, plaintiff’s product liability, personal injury class action law firm based in Philadelphia. His book including his work on Lyme Disease, A Nation Betrayed, is soon to be released.

Click here for the article in Philadelphia Inquirer

Click here for the Op-Ed
Neurological Complications of Vaccination with Outer Surface Protein A (OspA).
Marks DH1


Abstract

A wide range of neurological complications have been reported via the medical literature and the VAERS system after vaccination with recombinant outer surface protein A (OspA) of Borrelia. To explore this issue, 24 patients reporting neurological adverse events (AE) after vaccination with Lymerix, out of a group of 94 patients reporting adverse events after Lymerix vaccination, were examined for causation. Five reports of cerebral ischemia, two transient Ischemic attacks, five demyelinating events, two optic neuritis, two reports of transverse myelitis, and one non-specific demyelinating condition are evaluated in this paper. Caution is raised on not actively looking for neurologic AE, and for not considering causation when the incidence rate is too low to raise a calculable difference to natural occurrence.

PMID:
Neuropathy and Cognitive Impairment Following Vaccination with the OspA Protein of Borrelia Burgdorferi

Latov N1, Wu AT, Chin RL, Sander HW, Alaedini A, Brannagan TH 3rd.

Abstract

Neurological syndromes that follow vaccination or infection are often attributed to autoimmune mechanisms. We report six patients who developed neuropathy or cognitive impairment, within several days to 2 months, following vaccination with the OspA antigen of Borrelia burgdorferi. Two of the patients developed cognitive impairment, one chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), one multifocal motor neuropathy, one both cognitive impairment and CIDP, and one cognitive impairment and sensory axonal neuropathy. The patients with cognitive impairment had T2 hyperintense white matter lesions on magnetic resonance imaging. The similarity
between the neurological sequelae observed in the OspA-vaccinated patients and those with chronic Lyme disease suggests a possible role for immune mechanisms in some of the manifestations of chronic Lyme disease that are resistant to antibiotic treatment.

PMID: 15363064
DOI: 10.1111/j.1085-9489.2004.09306.x

[Indexed for MEDLINE]
FDA Response to Vaccine Questions

On January 22, 2002 in Bethesda, MD., the LDA was able to get a private meeting with the FDA on the vaccine issue, despite reluctance by the FDA to grant the meeting. Congressman Chris Smith helped facilitate the setup of this meeting. On February 25, 2002, a month after meeting with FDA, LDA received written answers to its questions from FDA and, also, learned that Glaxo SmithKline had quietly pulled Lymerix from the market, citing “poor sales.”

CLICK HERE FOR THE RESPONSE

Click here for summary of the meeting

Lyme Disease Tick Vectors | What Do Deer Ticks Look Like | Info Graphic

Learn more about blacklegged ticks, also known as deer ticks. What blacklegged ticks look like and the diseases they cause.
**TICK VECTORS**

Ticks are not insects but are arachnids and are thus related to spiders and mites. They have 8 legs, except when they first hatch from eggs (larva), when they have 6 legs.

**WHAT DO DEER TICKS LOOK LIKE?**

*Ixodes scapularis* commonly called blacklegged or deer ticks, are generally born uninfected with Lyme disease, i.e., they do not contain the Lyme bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Research has shown a small percent may be born infected with the bacteria.

![Tick Image](https://example.com/tick-image1)

*Photo Credit: James Ooci, MA, MS*

The deer tick does have a two year life cycle and does survive the winter.

![Tick Image](https://example.com/tick-image2)

*Photo Credit: James Ooci, MA, MS*

The deer tick can carry other disease organisms besides Lyme bacteria. Babesia, *Bartonella*, *Anaplasma*, tularemia, *Ehrlichia* and Powassan virus are some examples. One deer tick bite can infect you with one or more of these disease organisms.

![Tick Image](https://example.com/tick-image3)

*Photo Credit: James Ooci, MA, MS*

Other types of ticks have different life cycles and carry different diseases. Some examples important in human disease are; *Amblyomma americanum* (the lone star tick) which transmits a Lyme-like disease called STARI and can cause a red meat allergy; *Dermacentor variabilis* (American dog tick); and *Dermacentor andersoni* (wood tick).

**TICK HABITAT**

Tick Habitat Many people think ticks are only present in the woods. However, ticks can be found in many areas.

- Where woods/fields meet lawn
- Wooded areas
- Tall brush/grass
- Under leaves*
- Very small numbers on cut/raked lawns or sports fields
- Under ground cover (plants) in yard *
- Around stone walls and woodpiles where mice & other small mammals live

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*Lyme Disease Association, Inc. (LDA)*

*Dedicated to research, education, prevention and patient support.*

Source: [https://lymediseaseassociation.org/about-lyme/tick-vectors](https://lymediseaseassociation.org/about-lyme/tick-vectors)