

The LYMES DISEASE Countdown BEGINS...

Based on the article "Lyme disease is set to explode and we still don't have a vaccine" by New Scientists 2017

TICKS

Due to the changing climate, ticks have been found in areas where they have never been seen before

Spreading across the US, Europe, and forested areas of Asia

Lyme disease is the most common infection following an insect bite...
US = ~300,000 cases a year

When ticks hatch they grasp plants and grass ready to cling to passersby, usually mice

Nutritional crops bring plagues of mice every 2-5 years and these mice plagues bring tick plagues
A single mouse can carry hundreds of immature ticks

Ticks are Zoonoses (transmit diseases directly to humans)

Word spread that the vaccine caused conditions such as Arthritis

This was influenced by the "MMR link and Autism link" theory

Public support for the vaccine declined
The FDA found only 905 reports out of 1.4 million had a link

The vaccine was still removed

Valneva (biotech company in France) has developed a vaccine currently in early human trials

Its aim is to improve on Lymerix and act against all five types of bacteria(not just the most common)

They plan to make this drug work the same as the animal vaccine

An antigen will be triggered by a weakened version of the infection causing antibodies to develop. The antibody works by in the tick by neutralizing the *B. Burgdorferi* by altering the gene expression of a protein in the bacterium before it enters the bloodstream

The first vaccine created for Lymes disease was called Lymerix. By December 1998, the US Food and Drug Administration approved its release developed by SmithKline Beecham (GSK) but it was withdrawn after four years

The first vaccine however, anti-vaccinators got removed

There is NO VACCINE

It is EASY to treat if diagnosed EARLY

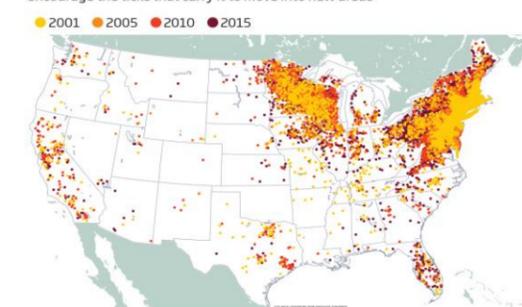
Some people suggested taking the animal vaccine against Lyme disease

This drug has not been tested on humans so there is no safety data to support this

It is illegal for vets to administer drugs

Lyme on the march

Cases of Lyme disease have spread across the US as warmer winters encourage the ticks that carry it to move into new areas



Symptoms

Flu like symptoms
Aches
Joint pain
Fever

Left untreated...

Paralysis
Chronic joint
Inflammation of the brain
Short term memory loss
Heart rhythm

It isn't always obvious when you have been bitten

When bitten, some people get rashes (not everybody does)
Flu like symptoms can come on (easy to misdiagnose)
Antibodies to the disease take weeks to develop so early diagnosis can be difficult

Have YOU been BITTEN?

CAUSATION

Give yourself a thorough check for any ticks (they can be very tiny).
Make sure you check hard to reach places such as armpits and groin areas

Some symptoms linger even when the infection has been treated
This is called Post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome
The cause of this condition is not currently known to scientists

If a tick is found within 36 hours pull it out correctly with tweezers. If it has been in longer consult a doctor (it takes about 36 hours for the bacteria to enter the bloodstream)

If you have consulted a doctor and test positive for Lymes disease, it can usually be eradicated with a course of antibiotics

People who lived in areas that suffered from Lymes disease know the risks and how to check for the symptoms (e.g. check for tick bites)
Areas where Lymes disease isn't usually seen will likely have people less knowledgeable about the disease and so the disease is more likely to be caused and spread

EUROPE

Confirmed cases have steadily rose over the last 30 years
WHO estimates 65,000 people have it every year in the region
UK = ~ 2000 to 3000 cases every year (10X more than 2001)



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