

LYME DISEASE SYMPTOMS

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➤ Skin

EARLY STAGE: Red spot or rash at site of bite (in only about 50% of cases) –can appear in other sites –can be pink, red, or purple --may resemble a bruise on dark skin --may be oval or circular	–may develop central clearing –may or may not look like a bull’s eye –may or may not itch or be hot --there may be multiple rashes --other rashes may occur
LATE STAGE: Severe acne, rosacea, other skin problems	Rashes and spots resembling bruises may come and go for years

➤ Musculoskeletal

Migrating asymmetrical joint pain, with or without swelling	Muscle weakens, may be progressive; chronic sore muscles
Migrating muscle pains, cramps	Stiffness in neck, back, joints

➤ Constitutional Symptoms (general well-being)

Early on, a flu-like illness	Swollen glands
Fatigue, unusual or extreme	Malaise
Symptoms that seem to change or come and go	Pains that migrate to different parts of the body
Unexplained weight loss or gain	New onset sensitivities or allergies
Fevers, unexplained, high or low grade	Continual or frequent infections (sinus, eye, kidney, bladder)

➤ Head, Face, Neck

Frequent headache, mild or severe	Stiff or painful neck
Unexplained hair loss	Jaw pain or stiffness
Facial pain; numbness in face	Sore throat
Facial paralysis (Bell’s palsy)	Swallowing problems
Twitching of face & other muscles	Tingling of nose, cheek, or face
Trigeminal neuralgia(TMJ)	Painful gums, teeth

➤ Eyes/Vision

Floater in eyes	Swelling around eyes
Double or blurry vision; fluctuations in visual acuity	Sensitivity to light: sunglasses may be needed indoors & at recess
Redness in eyes; Chronic conjunctivitis; keratitis	Flashing lights
Pain in or around eyes	Other eye problems
Dry eyes	Vision loss, blindness

➤ Ears/Hearing

Decreased hearing in one or both ears	Noise sensitivity; increased hearing in one or both ears
Buzzing or ringing in ears	Pain in ears
Red, hot ear lobes	Ears popping
Fluid in ears	Frequent ear infections

➤ Digestive & Excretory

Frequent or chronic diarrhea &/or constipation	Frequent urination, trouble starting/stopping, urgency
Chronic nausea, vomiting	Stomach pain; maybe ulcer
Loss of bowel or bladder control	Bladder/kidney pain or infections

➤ Central Nervous System (CNS) (neurological, mental, and psychological functions)

Tremors or unexplained shaking; jerking; Tourette’s	Numbness, tingling, pinprick sensations
Clumsiness, balance problems	Burning, stabbing, or shooting pains
Restlessness, restless legs syndrome, a need to move	Gait disturbance, difficulty walking, inability to walk
Seizures	Weakness, partial paralysis
Lightheadedness, dizziness, increased motion sickness	Temporary paralysis during sleep--especially arms
Short or long-term memory loss	Word, letter, number reversals
Difficulty concentrating or reading	Difficulty thinking, slowed thinking processes
Mental confusion	Brain “fog”
Slowed, slurred, or jumbled speech	Forgetting how to perform routine tasks
Stammering speech	Disorientation, getting lost
Word retrieval problems	Difficulty writing
Mood swings, irritability	Manic depression
Sudden personality change	PDD/Autism
Unusual depression	Hyperactivity (new onset)
Insomnia, difficulty falling or staying asleep	Attention Deficit Disorder (new onset)
Sleeping excessively	Vivid dreams
Feeling as if losing your mind	Oppositional defiant behavior
Overemotional reactions, crying easily; panic attacks	Obsessive-compulsive, other psychiatric disorders

➤ Respiratory & Circulatory System

Irregular heartbeat: missed beats, galloping, extra beats	Heart palpitations, racing heartbeat
Chest pain; rib soreness	Heart block
Night sweats, chills	Shortness of breath, cough

➤ Reproduction & Sexuality

Loss of sex drive; sexual dysfunction; pelvic pain; testicular pain; breast pain; endometriosis	Unexplained menstrual pain or irregularity; joint pains and other symptoms worse during menstruation
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Children who have Lyme disease may miss years of school or be absent sporadically. Lyme disease mimics a multitude of other illnesses, and **it is often years before a correct diagnosis is made.** Lyme disease is one of the causes of learning disabilities, ADD, ADHD, ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease), multiple sclerosis, lupus, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, arthritis, meningitis, Parkinson’s, autism, psychiatric illnesses, and other diseases. Some children are born with Lyme disease. Antibiotics often help them, sometimes dramatically.