

Ticks and Lyme Disease



For more information about Lyme disease, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/Lyme>

Pregnancy and Lyme disease

Reasons to suspect that you have Lyme disease include:

- You live in a region where Lyme disease is common
- You are experiencing symptoms such as rash, fever, chills, exhaustion, joint or muscle pain, or facial paralysis

Untreated, Lyme disease can be dangerous to your unborn child. Lyme disease that goes untreated can also cause you to have brain, nerve, spinal cord, and heart problems. With early treatment, these complications can be prevented. If you suspect that you may have Lyme disease, see your physician.

What to expect from your appointment

If your doctor thinks that you may have Lyme disease based on your symptoms alone, you will receive 2-4 weeks of antibiotics, most likely amoxicillin.

If your symptoms are not clear-cut, your doctor may decide to have your blood tested. Keep in mind that blood testing is more accurate the longer you have been infected. A blood test for Lyme disease may not appear positive until 4-6 weeks after infection.

Treatment of Lyme disease in pregnancy

- No life-threatening effects on the fetus have been found in cases where the mother receives appropriate antibiotic treatment for her Lyme disease.
- In general, treatment for pregnant women is similar to that of non-pregnant adults, although certain antibiotics, such as doxycycline, are not used because they can affect fetal development.
- A typical treatment would include oral amoxicillin 500 mg three times daily for 2-3 weeks. Women who are allergic to amoxicillin would most likely receive 500 mg cefuroxime axetil twice per day

Lyme disease and breastfeeding

There are no reports of Lyme disease transmission from breast milk.