

E076

2-hour Educational Workshop

Laboratory support in the diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis

Borrelia serology from the perspective of the infectious diseases specialist - pros & cons

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Lyme borreliosis is an infectious tick-borne disease endemic in large parts of Europe, Asia and the United States of America and caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato. These spirochetes are transmitted by *Ixodes* ticks and may cause specific cutaneous, musculoskeletal, neurological or other objective clinical findings. Nonetheless, Lyme borreliosis is invariably linked by some to a wide range of subjective symptoms. Often, the clinical presentation is straightforward and serology and/or other diagnostic tests can be used to confirm the diagnosis. However, sometimes the clinical presentation is not as clear. The predominant diagnostic test relies on detection of *Borrelia burgdorferi* sI specific IgM or IgG antibodies. Correct interpretation of test results requires understanding of antibody dynamics and should be related to the clinical presentation. This can pose physicians for diagnostic and therapeutic dilemmas. Furthermore, the use of non-validated diagnostic tests, unclear clinical entities such as 'Chronic Lyme', accompanying or persisting non-specific complaints such as fatigue, arthralgia and myalgia, and the occurrence of less typical skin rashes further contribute to the challenges in patients suspected of Lyme borreliosis. The presentation will touch upon these subjects and will share some experiences from the Amsterdam Multidisciplinary Lyme borreliosis Center.