Filename:

2\_lyme\_2016-02-09\_MTS

Title:

New species of bacteria capable of causing Lyme disease is discovered

Promo Title [alternate, often shorter]:

Borrelia mayonii identified as a causative agent of Lyme disease

Promo Description [tag line includes some new fact]:

B. mayonii causes a variant of Lyme disease with a more diffuse rash.

Story:

A new species of bacteria that can produce symptoms consistent with Lyme disease has been discovered.

Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Mayo Clinic published the discovery of the Lyme disease-producing bacteria Borrelia mayonii in the journal Lancet Infectious Diseases.

Illness caused by B. mayonii is similar to that caused by B. burgdorferi, the usual etiologic agent of Lyme disease. However, B. mayonii Lyme disease presents with a diffuse rash rather than the stereotypical “bull’s-eye” rash, and it is associated with greater bacteremia.

Common diagnostic tests and antibiotic regimens used to treat B. burgdorferi Lyme disease appear to be effective for use with B. mayonii Lyme disease.

Like B. burgdorferi, B. mayonii is transmitted to humans via the bite of an infected blacklegged tick, commonly known as a deer tick. The distribution of B. mayonii appears to be restricted to the states of the upper Midwest, including Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Sources:

New Lyme-disease-causing bacteria species discovered

http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/p0208-lyme-disease.html