Lyme Disease Stats and Facts

FACTS

- You can get many tick-borne diseases from one tick bite.
- The longer a tick is attached, the greater the risk of disease.
- Lyme disease is a clinical diagnosis based on symptoms, history, and exam.
- You can test negative & still have Lyme or other tick-borne diseases.
- CDC criteria are for surveillance purposes, not diagnosis.
- According to the CDC surveillance criteria, an erythema migrants (EM) rash in an endemic area, means Lyme disease.
- In a non-endemic area, rash requires a positive test.
- Not everyone who contracts Lyme disease gets a rash.
- Lyme symptoms can develop days or months after a tick bite.
- Lyme patients often get worse before getting better while on treatment (Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction).
- Lyme bacterium can cross the placenta & infect the fetus, which may result in fetal death & its DNA has been found in breast milk.
- Lyme can cause death.

STATS

- Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne disease in the United States. More than 22,500 confirmed and 7,500 probable cases of Lyme disease were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) receives reports of approximately 30,000 cases of Lyme disease annually in the United States.
- However, the organization estimates that about 300,000 people contract the illness each year. A variety of factors contribute to this significant disparity—but a dearth of

reliable diagnostic tests is a key part of the problem.

- More than 3,000 chronic Lyme disease patients, conducted by LymeDisease.org, revealed that over 40% were currently unable to work because of LD.
- A total of 275,589 cases of Lyme disease were reported to CDC (208,834 confirmed and 66,755 probable).