

LYME DISEASE PATHOCHART

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Lyme disease is a vector-borne illness transmitted into humans through a tick bite. This causes inflammation that begins as a Bullseye rash and nonspecific symptoms and progresses to severe arthritis and possible encephalopathy. The tick typically must be attached for 36-48 hours to contract Lyme disease. With early treatment, Lyme disease is rarely fatal.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Bullseye Rash at site of bite
- Fever
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Joint Pain
- Neurological deficits, especially in later stages



DIAGNOSTICS

- History of Tick Bite
- Clinical Findings
- Blood Test

NURSING PRIORITIES

- Support Immune System
- Promote Comfort
- Patient Education for Prevention

THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Remove tick (including head)
- Manage symptoms
- Educate patient to use bug spray
- Educate patient to take full course of antibiotics

MEDICATION THERAPY

- Corticosteroids
- Antibiotics