

Many thanks for covering Lyme disease on your programme. I have had it for 42 years - most of my life therefore as I first got it aged about 6 years' old. For many years I experienced a life that frankly wasn't worth living and which tormented me on a daily basis. My 'ME' diagnosis in 1988 (and many other doctors refused to accept this even) was finally to be followed by my real diagnosis only last year. You can imagine how emotional I felt to finally have an answer to my chronic health problems - as 'ME' is simply a name for a collection of symptoms waiting for a better diagnosis identifying the infections - as well as appalled at the realisation that my young daughter's health problems stemmed from congenital Lyme disease. The question is just how many others with ME have Lyme disease? Informal studies and anecdotal evidence suggest a large percentage. There's evidence that Lyme disease is on the increase, possibly worsened by global warming. However the general NHS medical profession remains hugely ignorant of even acute Lyme disease, let alone 'chronic'. This is a fundamental problem when doctors with the right treatment could be preventing the acute cases from ever becoming chronic in the first place. Another serious question is how many patients are unwittingly passing on their disease to their offspring? As one's immune status plays a role in the development of this disease, some congenital cases are only becoming apparent later on in life (though my daughter's stem from birth). Borrelia has been found in cases of Alzheimers, Lewy Bodies syndrome, ALS and MS, amongst other neurodegenerative and neurobehavioural diseases (including autism spectrum disorders). I beg the BBC to place Lyme more in the spotlight and address this phenomenon urgently. I came across a published academic article just yesterday of evidence of borrelia in the foetus and am horrified to read it dates from 1989! How am I going to explain this to my daughter when she is older? and how will I find the money to repair the damage done to her when I have had Lyme disease my whole working life and e.g. natural treatments are not subsidised? My promising future was taken away from me by this illness, although I was awarded a government grant for a PhD (I was too ill to carry this out).

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