

Thank you for talking about Lyme Disease on BBC Radio 4 Woman's hour today.

There clearly is not enough public awareness of this dreadful disease, we are badly let down by Public Health England who could do more to raise awareness and encourage doctors to consider Lyme as a differential diagnosis.

Most awareness in the media is as a result of patients or their carers contacting the media - it is being driven on the backs of sick people concerned that others don't have the same tragic experience they had.

Interestingly even doctors and their families struggle to get diagnosed and struggle to get treatment that restores their health, as highlighted by your interviewee Dr Sandra Pearson. There are quite a number of doctors in the UK who have been affected by Lyme disease some like the carers daughter have had to travel abroad to find expertise to help them recover, because their colleagues, within the NHS do not understand even some of the basics about this disease and there is no expertise within our NHS.

Those of us fortunate to access longer courses of antibiotics or combination courses of antibiotics or repeat courses of antibiotics generally report improvements in their health and better quality of life. Sadly many doctors dismiss that, but the science is there to show that Lyme Disease can be a persistent infection and has mechanisms to evade the immune system and antibiotics.

We may not yet be able to cure a late/chronic stage of Lyme Disease, we currently can not cure HIV/AIDS but we still treat patients with HIV and are able to manage their health problems. So should it be with the chronic late stages of Lyme Disease, if the treatment helps, the patient should have the opportunity to be treated here on the NHS.

My story is well documented on the internet :-

BBC website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-22468181>

I was interviewed as part of The Big Tick Project <http://www.mypetonline.co.uk/.../big-tick-project...> and featured in their video posted on my website <http://lookingatlyme.blogspot.co.uk/.../the-big-tick...>

My website details my story in right hand column <http://lookingatlyme.blogspot.co.uk/>

This video blog also discusses My Lyme Disease - <http://lookingatlyme.blogspot.co.uk/.../my-lyme-disease...>

Earlier this month research showed that ticks were found throughout the UK not as previously thought just in Hot Spot areas.

<http://lookingatlyme.blogspot.co.uk/.../ticks-infesting...>

Please will you do further coverage of Lyme disease perhaps interviewing a US doctor involved in treating patients or such as Dr Neil Spector Cancer doctor/ researcher, who had a heart transplant due to Lyme Disease diagnosis being missed. The coverage in this Fox5 news was outstanding

<http://lookingatlyme.blogspot.co.uk/.../fox-5-lyme-and...>

Best wishes,

***Joanne Drayson***

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To read more letters, click [here](#).