

Thank you for raising awareness of Lyme disease today. I sincerely hope that the more voices of the Lyme sufferers will be heard, and research can be done towards this horrible disease.

I come from China originally in my early twenties and have enjoyed working in this country and have had a happy family life with a very understanding husband and two wonderful children. Our lives would be so near perfect if it wasn't what happened to me in the summer of 2012 when I had a strange oval shape rash on my arm for about two weeks. No one thought of it much as GP and A&E doctors didn't recognise it as Lyme rash. A week of antibiotic was used. Everything seemed to be back to normal. The following 10 months was like a nightmare unfolding. I started to have severe pain in head, neck, back, shoulder, knees, hands and wrist. I had severe fatigue. My heart wasn't up for things. I was in pieces. I saw neurologist, rheumatologist, both on NHS and privately. No definite diagnosis was given. I finally self diagnosed myself having Lyme disease. I have gone to treatment in America, Belgium and Breakspear in the UK as my GPs don't want to treat this disease for fear of jeopardizing their careers and pensions by touching something which is a bit of unknown and controversial, as the Lyme treatment involves long course of antibiotics, a bit like acne treatment. This all happens despite the fact That we live near Bushy Park and Richmond which have a large deer population. Now I am living with chronic Lyme condition suffering severe fatigue, muscle pains, brain fogs etc on daily basis. My husband who is a senior scientist has to reduce his working hours to look after me and my kids on less income. This disease has affected our families both in the UK and China, as they are shocked by the fact that my disease is not accepted and treated by GPs/NHS.

Thank you for listening to my story.

Best wishes

Hongyan

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