

ERITHEMA MIGRANS (LYME DISEASE) AFTER HANDLING GAME BIRDS

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Lyme disease (LD) has a low incidence in Spain although it has been reported in wide areas, especially in the North. Several genospecies of *Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato* (excluding *B. afzelii*) have been identified. Its vector is the tick *Ixodes ricinus*, which is a parasite of birds and different mammals. Several studies emphasize the significance of birds' epidemiology and their migratory movements as host and reservoirs for LD. Diagnosis of erythema migrans is based on clinical features and history of environmental exposure, given the low sensitivity of serological test during early LD stages. **CASE REPORT:** A 7 year-old girl was admitted to the hospital with an itchy skin lesion of centrifugal growth around an insect bite, detected 5 days earlier on the thorax. She also showed signs of asthenia and headache. Her father had been hunting birds the week before and the patient had helped to pluck the animals. Physical examinations: only one annular skin lesion (5 x 15 cm) with erythematous margins and central clearing on the right pectoral area. Laboratory findings: blood and biochemical analysis and C-reactive protein were normal. Serological test were non-conclusive (Ig G+M ELISA was positive but Western blot IgG was negative and IgM indeterminate). Patient received amoxicillin orally during 21 days, the skin lesion disappeared after the second week and no other signs of LD appeared. **CONCLUSIONS:** 1-Game birds handling may be considered a risk factor for LD. 2-Meticulous epidemiological investigation may show environmental exposure that would otherwise go unnoticed.

