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The Lancet Infectious Diseases, [Volume 12, Issue 5](#), Page 362, May 2012
doi:10.1016/S1473-3099(12)70054-3 [Cite or Link Using DOI](#)

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Lyme disease antiscience

[Carl Tuttle](#)

Paul Auwaerter and colleagues¹ are among the handful of individuals who have controlled the Lyme disease research agenda for decades and ultimately which data have been reported. Why is it that, in my experience, many people in New Hampshire have been severely debilitated by Lyme disease or know someone who has, whereas Auwaerter and co-workers claim that the disease is easily diagnosed and treated with a short course of antibiotics? Seven states have now passed legislation to protect clinicians who treat late-stage Lyme disease with long-term antibiotics (CT, MA, MN, NY, NH, RI, and TX) and support groups exist in nearly every state, with 19 in Pennsylvania alone.

The ELISA first-line screening test produces false-negative results and patients are told they do not have Lyme disease. A follow-up western blot test that is much more sensitive is not allowed when the ELISA test is negative. In a two-tiered testing algorithm, western blots can only be used after a positive ELISA test to rule out a false-positive result. Therefore, we have no way to rule out a false negative. Clinicians who exclusively treat Lyme disease no longer use the ELISA test.²⁻⁴ The German Borreliosis Society has recognised that the two-tier system we presently use for Lyme disease testing is inadequate.⁵

Misinterpretation of laboratory results is the main reason why the medical community is dismissive of patients with Lyme disease and their symptoms. Faulty diagnostic tests create confusion, causing physicians to miss the small period in which they can give successful short-term treatment. As a result, many patients have late-stage Lyme disease. Since we only test for antibodies against the infection and not the bacteria itself, we have no way to rule out active, continuing infection.

If the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are correct with their single-treatment approach for all stages of Lyme disease and two-tier method of testing, why do we have so much legislation involving Lyme disease?

I declare that I have no conflicts of interest.

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