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**Lyme Disease**

An estimated 200,000 new cases of Lyme Disease are diagnosed per year. Lyme disease has overtaken AIDS as the fastest growing disease in the U.S. with New York State having the third highest rate of confirmed cases. Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium Borrelia burgdorferi and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected ticks. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a skin rash known as erythema migrans. In most cases, the infection and its symptoms are eliminated by antibiotics, especially if the illness is treated early. If Lyme disease is not treated, the infection can spread to joints, the heart, and to the nervous system. Chronic Lyme disease can be a debilitating illness that can mimic other diseases such as fibromyalgia, rheumatoid arthritis, heart disease and neurological disorders.

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**Bibliography compiled by Lana Rudy, M.A., M.L.S.**