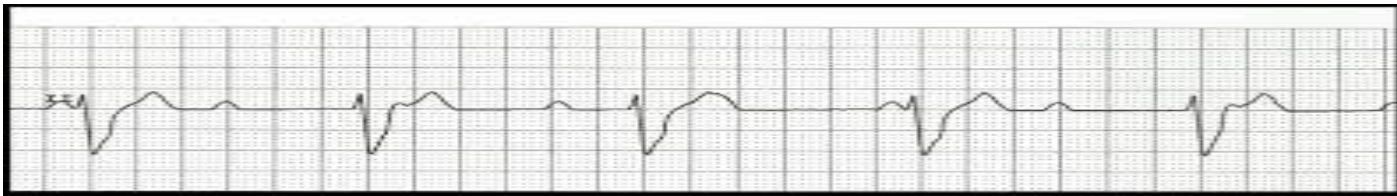


# Lyme Carditis: Update 2020



Adrian Baranchuk MD FACC FRCPC FCCS FSIAC  
Professor of Medicine  
Queen's University  
Vice President, International Society of Holter and Non-invasive Electrophysiology (ISHNE)  
Secretary, Interamerican Society of Cardiology

**Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network (CLyDRN)  
Virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2020**

# Disclosures

- No conflict of interest to report
- I am not an ID doctor
- I am an EP doctor
- Do not ask tough questions

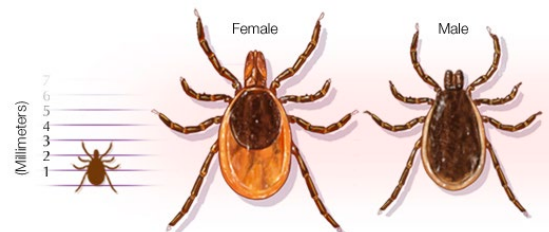
# Overview

- Epidemiology of Lyme Disease
- Prevalence and Risk Factors
- Stages with Associated Symptoms - Lyme Carditis
- Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment:  
The “Queen’s approach”
- Future Considerations

# Epidemiology

- Lyme disease is a spirochetal infection caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi* in North America
- Transmitted by infected ticks, primarily black-legged ticks
- Ticks typically must attach to humans for 36-48 hours to transmit infection
- Peak onset of Lyme disease occurs during the summer months of June, July and August

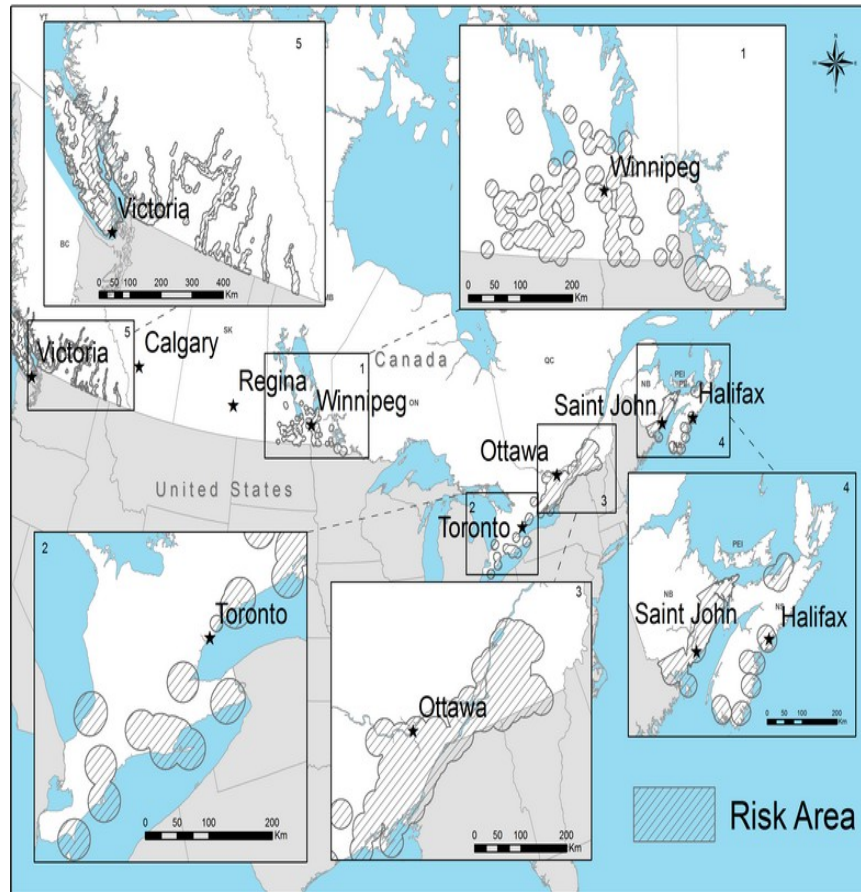
BLACK-LEGGED (DEER) TICK



Outstanding care, always™

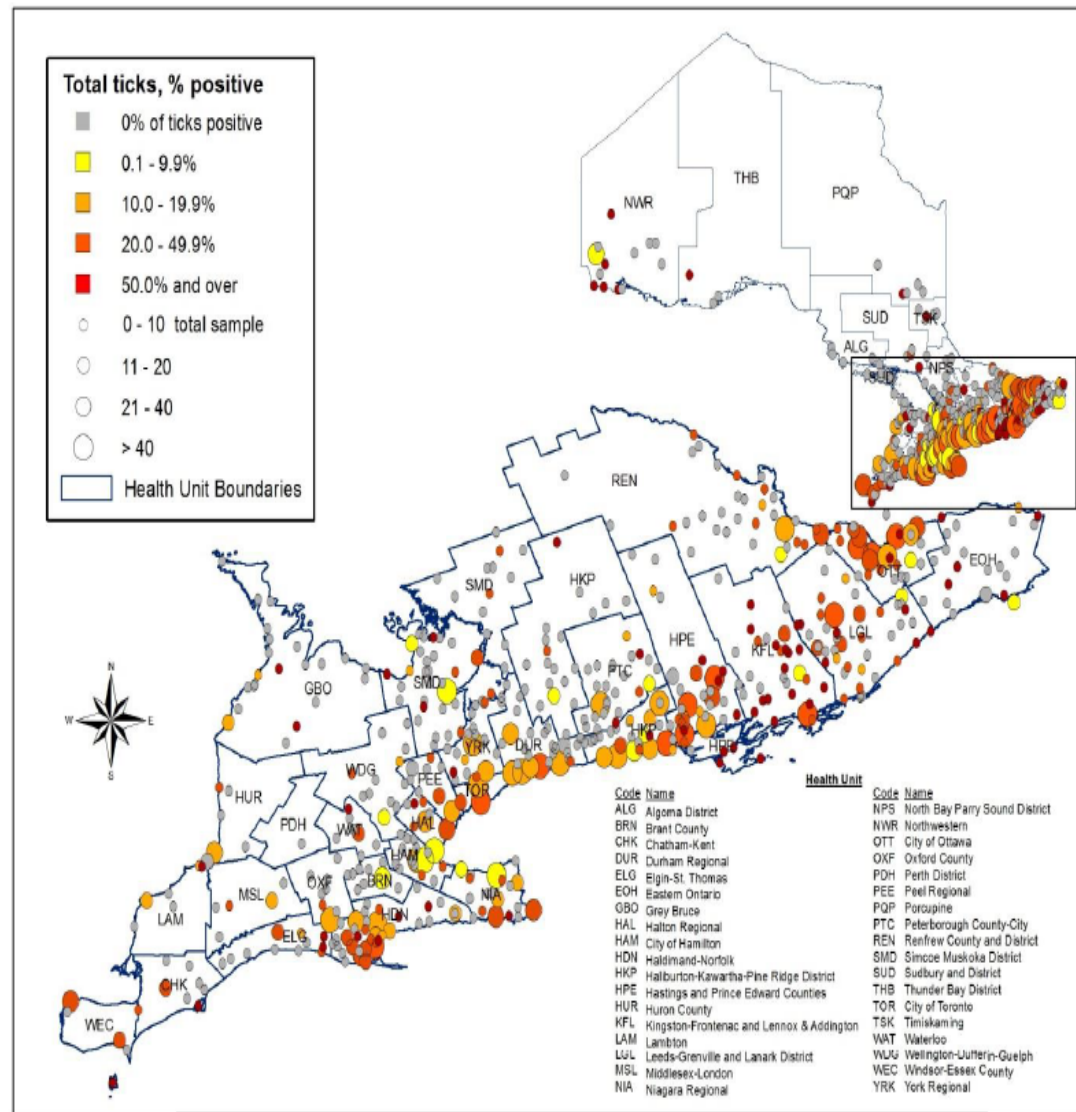


# Lyme Disease Incidence



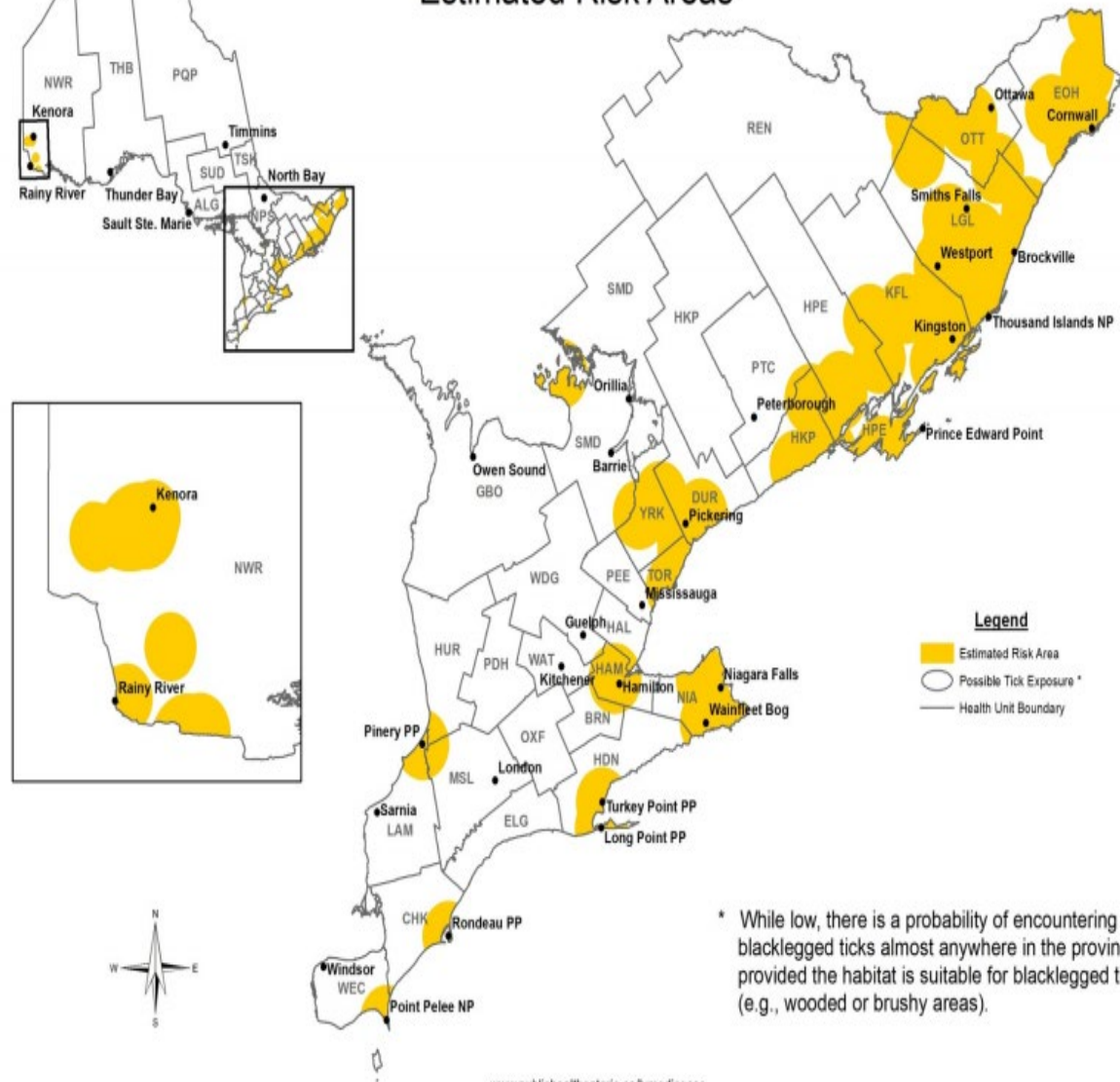
Source: Government of Canada, <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease/risk-lyme-disease.html#map>  
Accessed on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Figure 5: Number of *Ixodes scapularis* samples and percent positivity for *Borrelia burgdorferi* based on most-likely location of acquisition: Ontario, 2017



Data source: PHO Tick Database and National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) data, extracted [2018/04/26].

# Ontario Lyme Disease Map 2018 Estimated Risk Areas



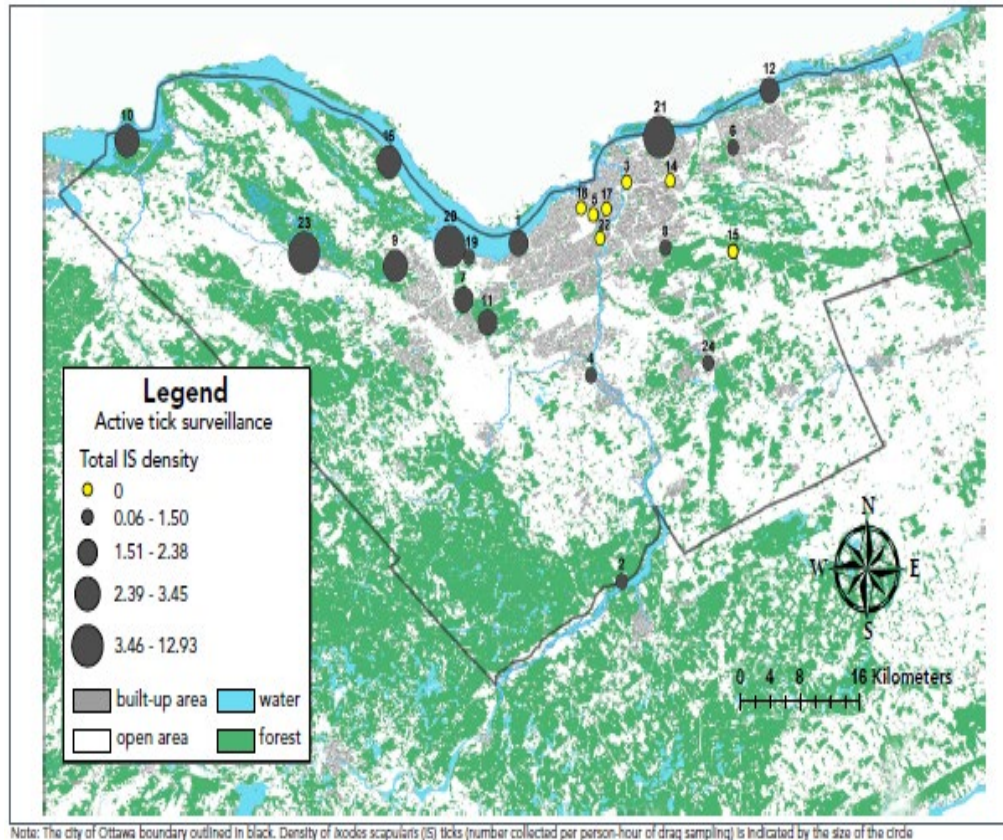
Source: Public Health Ontario,

[https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Lyme\\_disease\\_risk\\_areas\\_map.pdf](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Lyme_disease_risk_areas_map.pdf)

Accessed on January 31st, 2019



# Tick Density



Map of Ottawa illustrating tick density in sites surveyed for active tick surveillance, 2017

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada Communicable Disease Report: Climate Change and Lyme Disease. October 4, 2018. Volume 43-10.



# Lyme Disease Incidence

- The Government currently has data for Lyme disease cases reported between 2009 and 2017:
- 2009: 144 cases
- 2010: 143 cases
- 2011: 266 cases
- 2012: 338 cases
- 2013: 682 cases
- 2014: 522 cases
- 2015: 917 cases
- 2016: 992 cases
- 2017: 2025 cases

Source: Government of Canada, <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease/surveillance-lyme-disease.html>

Accessed on: January 31st, 2019.

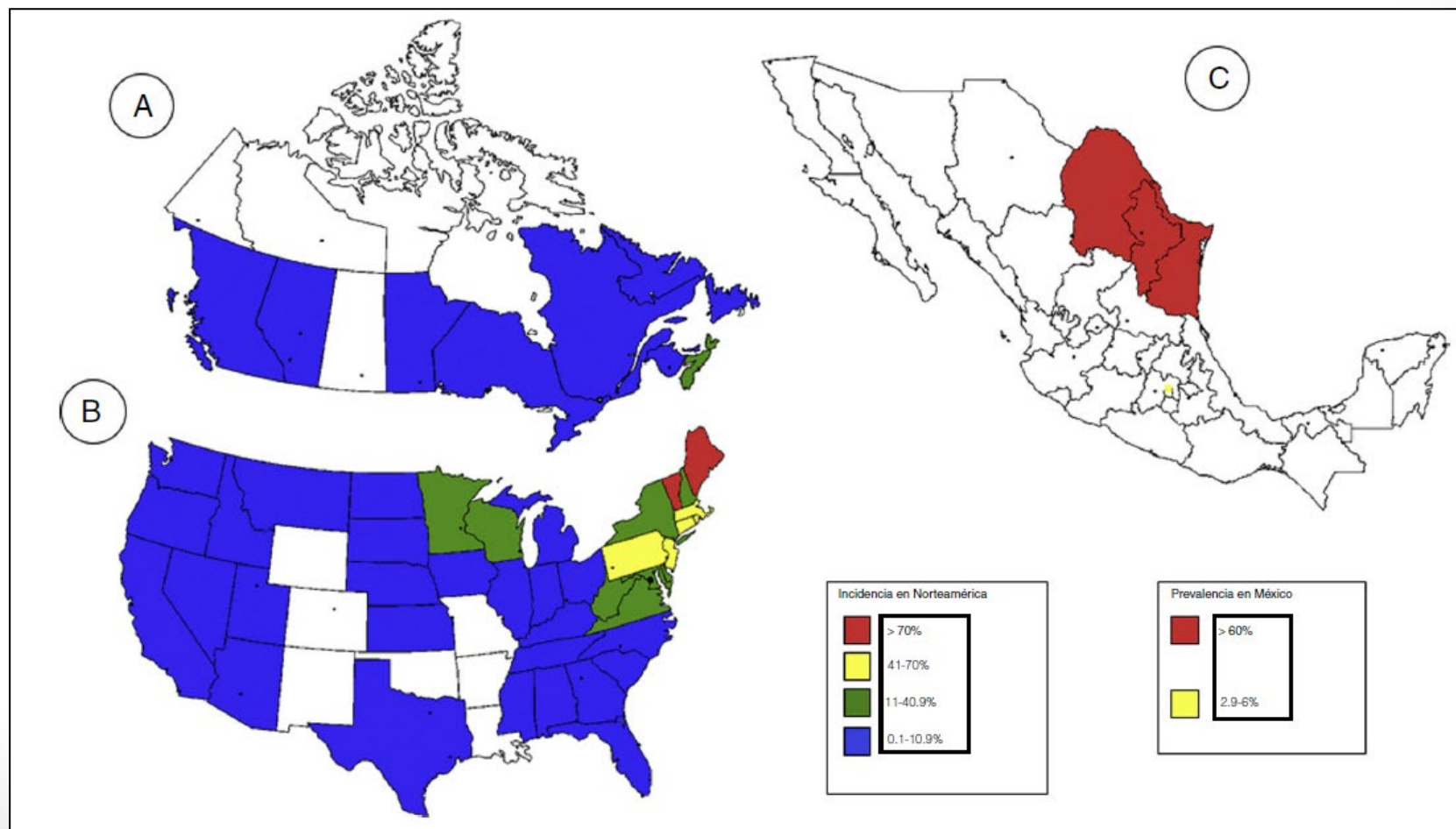
# Afección cardíaca de la enfermedad de Lyme: ¿Por qué México debe de prestar atención a este tema?

Lyme carditis: Why should Mexico pay attention to this problem?

Diego R. Sánchez-Vázquez<sup>a</sup>, Manlio F. Márquez<sup>b</sup> y Adrian Baranchuk<sup>c,\*</sup>



Arch Mex Cardiol 2018



# Stages with Associated Symptoms



<b><i>Early Localized</i></b>	<b><i>Early Disseminated</i></b>	<b><i>Late Disseminated</i></b>
Occurs days to weeks after infection	Occurs weeks to months after infection	Occurs months to years after infection
<p>Characterized by: appearance of erythema <u>migrans</u> with or without symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Malaise</li> <li>• Lethargy</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Neck stiffness</li> <li>• <u>Myalgias</u></li> <li>• <u>Arthralgias</u></li> </ul>	<p>Characterized by: multiple erythema <u>migrans</u> lesions and/or acute neurologic and cardiac symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meningitis cranial neuropathy, facial nerve palsy and sensory/motor neuropathy</li> <li>• Varying degrees of AV block, <u>myopericarditis</u>, syncope, dyspnea, and chest pain</li> </ul>	<p>Characterized by: intermittent or persistent arthritis and certain neurological problems including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encephalopathy</li> <li>• Neuropathy</li> <li>• Encephalomyelitis</li> </ul>

# Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment

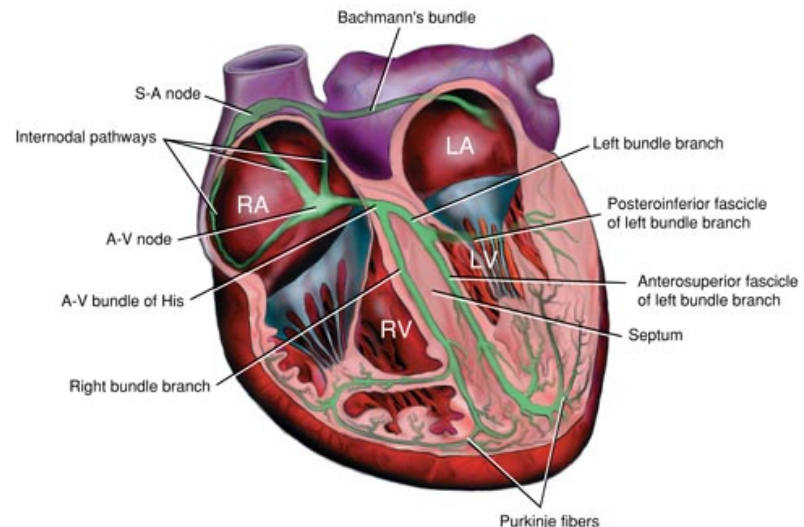
- Early symptoms of Lyme disease often mimic those of other conditions including viral illnesses, unexplained infections, meningitis, etc. and should be considered as a differential diagnosis
- Diagnosis is made by history and physical assessment as well as positive Lyme serology
- Treatment with antibiotics :
  - Early localized (10-21 day course)
  - Early disseminated (14-28 day course)
  - Late disseminated (28 day course)



# Lyme Carditis

- Direct invasion of spirochetes into the layers of the heart tissues
- Can infect all parts of the heart: conduction system, inner and outer membranes, cardiac muscle, cardiac blood vessels or heart valves
- More common in males (male: female = 3:1)
- Uncommon: 4-10% of untreated patients with Lyme disease develop Lyme carditis, while only 1% develop AV conduction blocks
- Clinical manifestations:
  - AV conduction block – can progress rapidly from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> degree
  - Syncope
  - Lightheadedness/dizziness
  - Dyspnea
  - Palpitations
  - Chest pain

(Forrester & Mead. 2014; Krause & Bockenstedt, 2013)



# Case Study #1

- 30 year old male
- Risk factors: lives in rural area, bug bite approx. 2 weeks prior, no classic target lesions
- ER visit Campbellford– September 23<sup>rd</sup> , 2016
  - Developed left facial nerve palsy – dx: Bell's Palsy
  - Reports of fatigue, malaise, myalgias, arthralgias, fever, chills, sweats, headaches and neck stiffness
  - Sent home with prescription for prednisone
- ER visit and Admission Picton– September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016
  - 2 episodes of syncope and reports of exercise intolerance
  - ECG showed 2<sup>nd</sup> degree AV block with HR 38 bpm
  - Transferred to Belleville – heart block progressed – temporary wire inserted for transvenous pacing. Lyme serology sent. Ceftriaxone IV initiated.
  - Transferred to Kingston for consideration of permanent pacemaker insertion



DATE

TIME

1/28/2016 09:46:41

25.0 mm/s \*\*\*xBrady 34 &lt;35 HR 38 SpO2 97 Pulse (SpO2) 38 Perf 4.6 NBP 111/67 (78) (09:45) Pulse (NBP) HP 9270-0980

mV II 0.5-35 Hz

mV V 0.5-35 Hz

1/28/2016 09:58:51

25.0 mm/s \*\*\*xBrady 29 &lt;30 HR 29 SpO2 96 Pulse (SpO2) 37 Perf 2.8 NBP -?- (09:45) Pulse (NBP) -?.

mV II 0.5-35 Hz

mV V 0.5-35 Hz

1/28/2016 10:11:13

HP 9270-0980

25.0 mm/s \*\*\*xBrady 29 &lt;30 HR 31 SpO2 97 Pulse (SpO2) 32 Perf 2.1 NBP 108/53 (65) (10:01) Pulse (NBP) HP 9270-0980

mV II 0.5-35 Hz

mV V 0.5-35 Hz

Kingston  
General  
Hospital

Outstanding care, always™



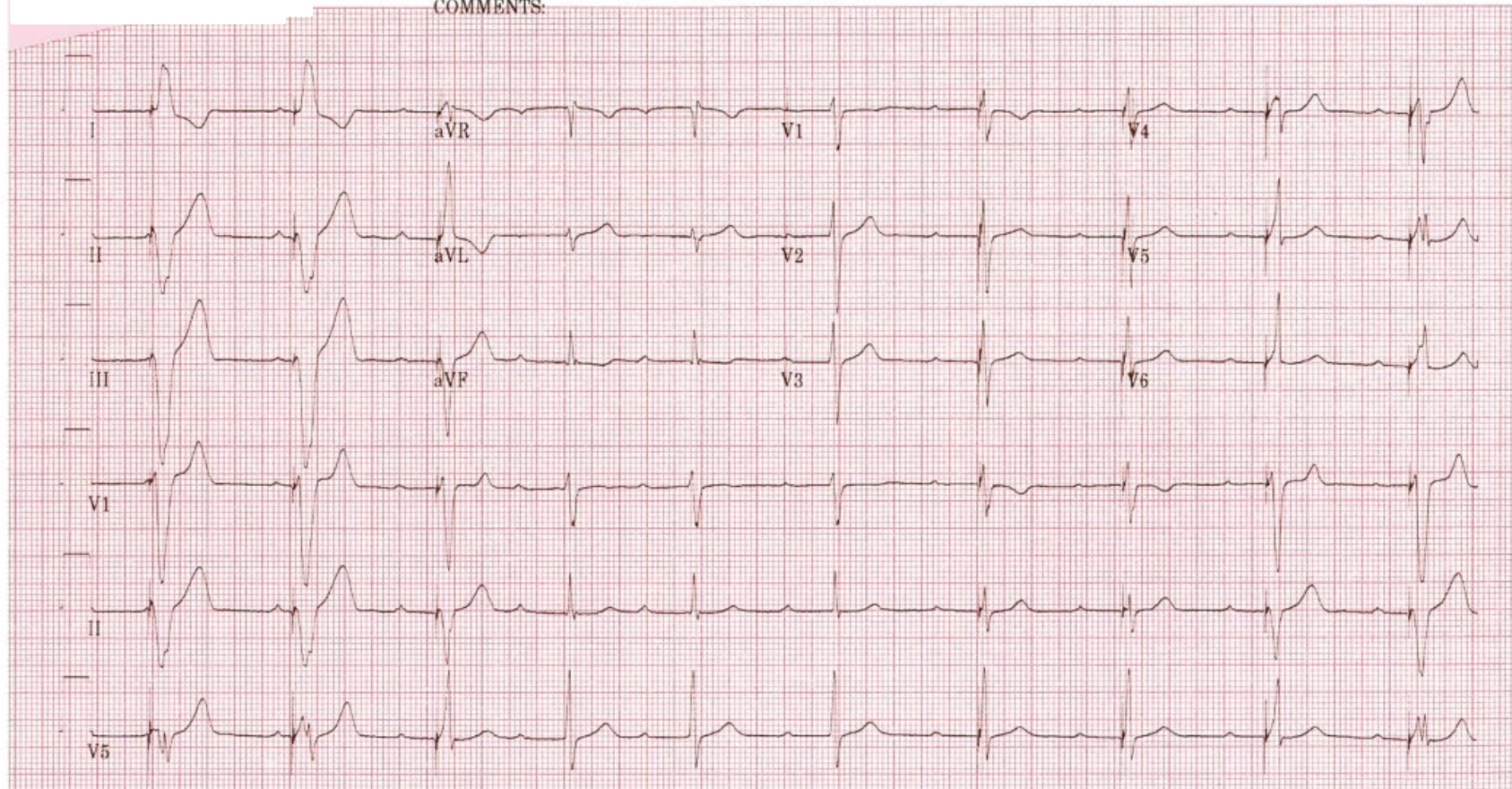
Vent. rate 59 bpm  
PR interval 320 ms  
QRS duration 104 ms  
QT/QTc 414/409 ms  
P-R-T axes 68 71 -2

Sinus bradycardia with 1st degree AV block with frequent ventricular-paced complexes  
Abnormal QRS-T angle, consider primary T wave abnormality  
Abnormal ECG

COMMENTS:

Referred by:

Unconfirmed





1-Oct-2016 8:54:28

Kingston General Hospital

Vent. rate 38 bpm  
PR interval 354 ms  
QRS duration 102 ms  
QT/QTc 418/332 ms  
P-R-T axes 59 48 -2

Sinus rhythm with 2nd degree AV block with 2:1 AV conduction  
Cannot rule out Inferior infarct, age undetermined  
Abnormal ECG

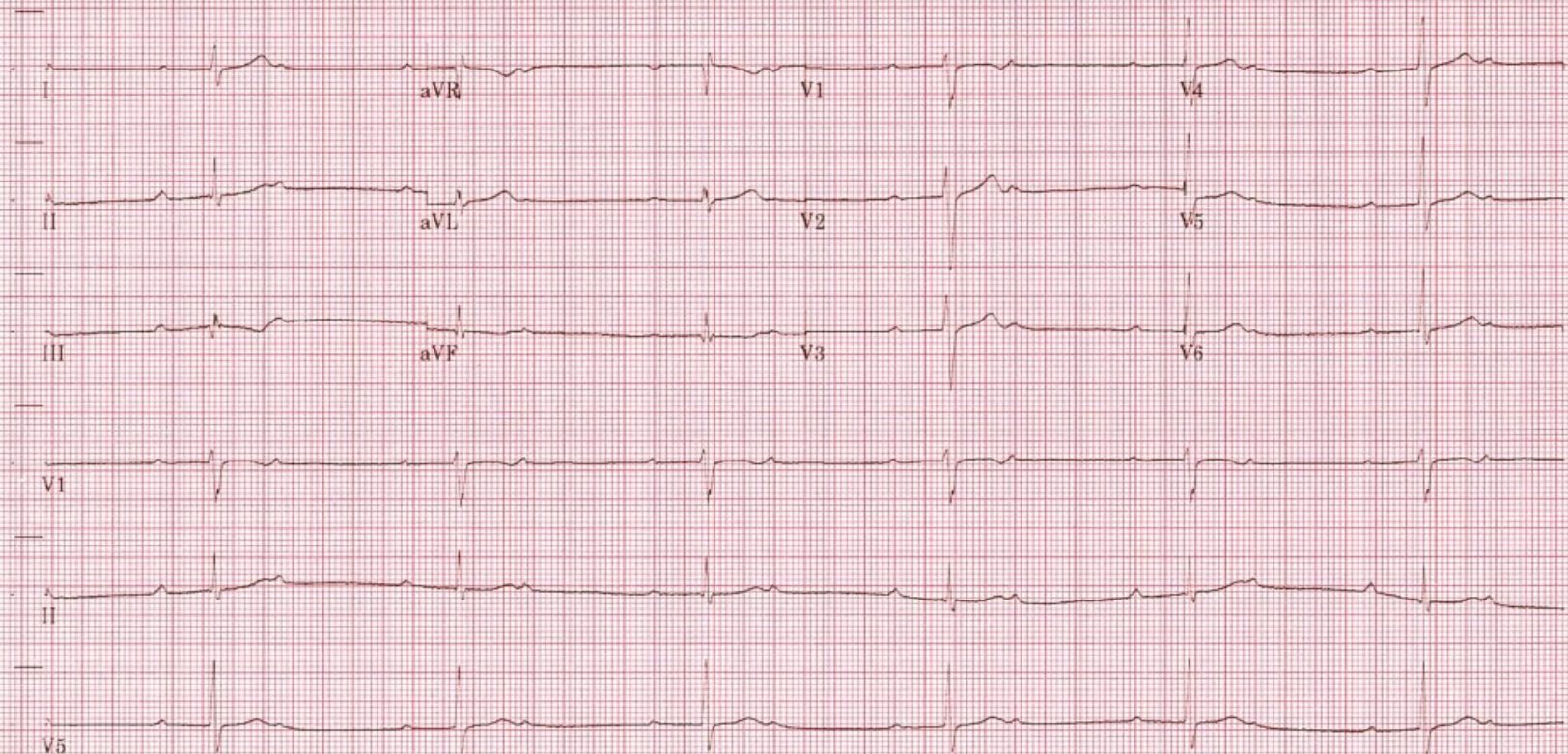
Technician: 509

Referred by:

Unconfirmed

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:





Vent. rate 53 bpm  
PR interval \* ms  
QRS duration 96 ms  
QT/QTc 428/401 ms  
P-R-T axes \* 48 5

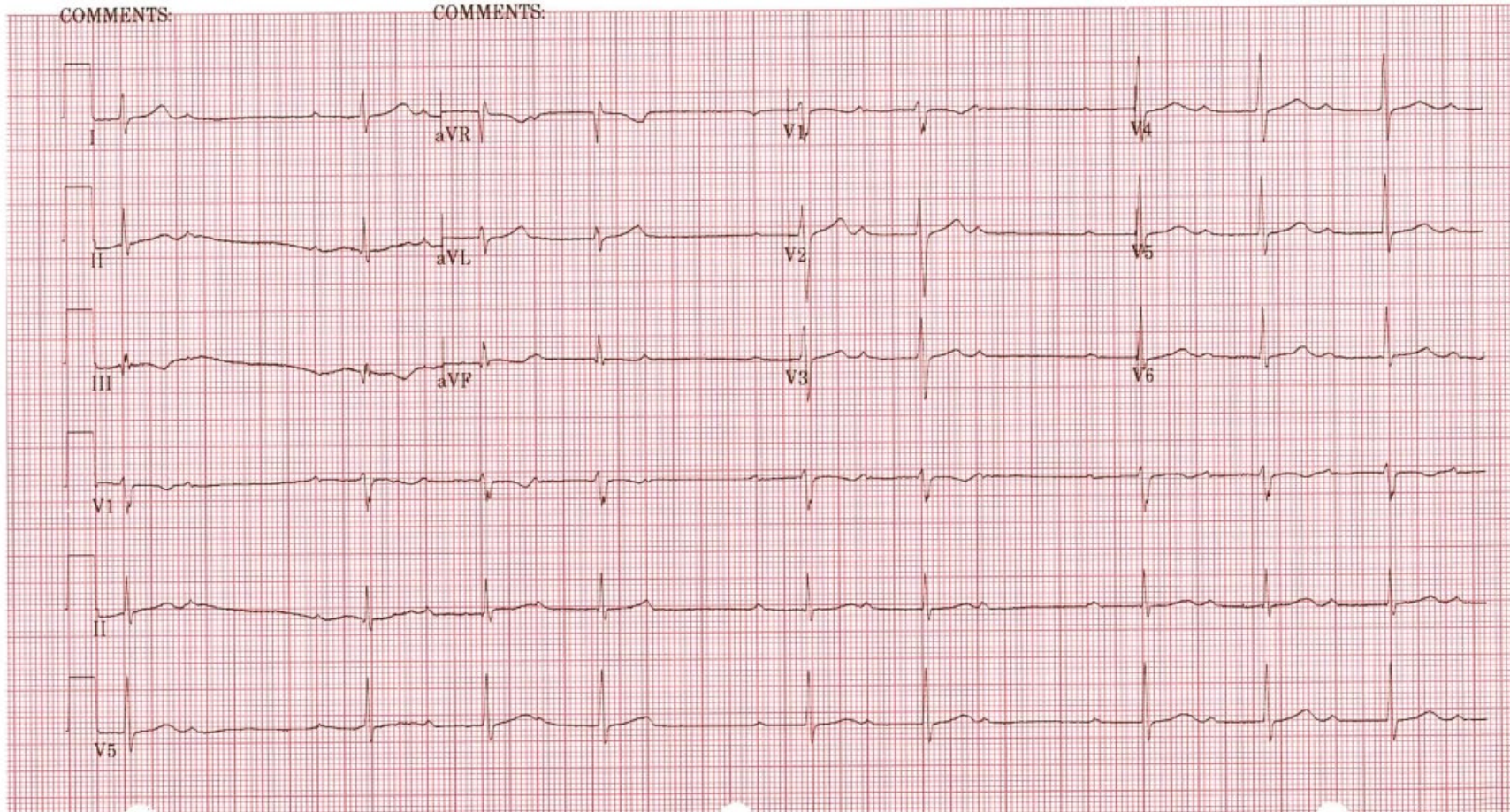
Sinus rhythm with 2nd degree AV block (Mobitz I)  
Cannot rule out Inferior infarct, age undetermined  
Abnormal ECG

Technician:

Unconfirmed

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:





4-Oct-2016

7:09:08

Kingston General Hospital

Vent. rate 50 bpm  
PR interval 312 ms  
QRS duration 100 ms  
QT/QTc 420/382 ms  
P-R-T axes 36 58 11

Sinus bradycardia with 1st degree AV block  
Otherwise normal ECG

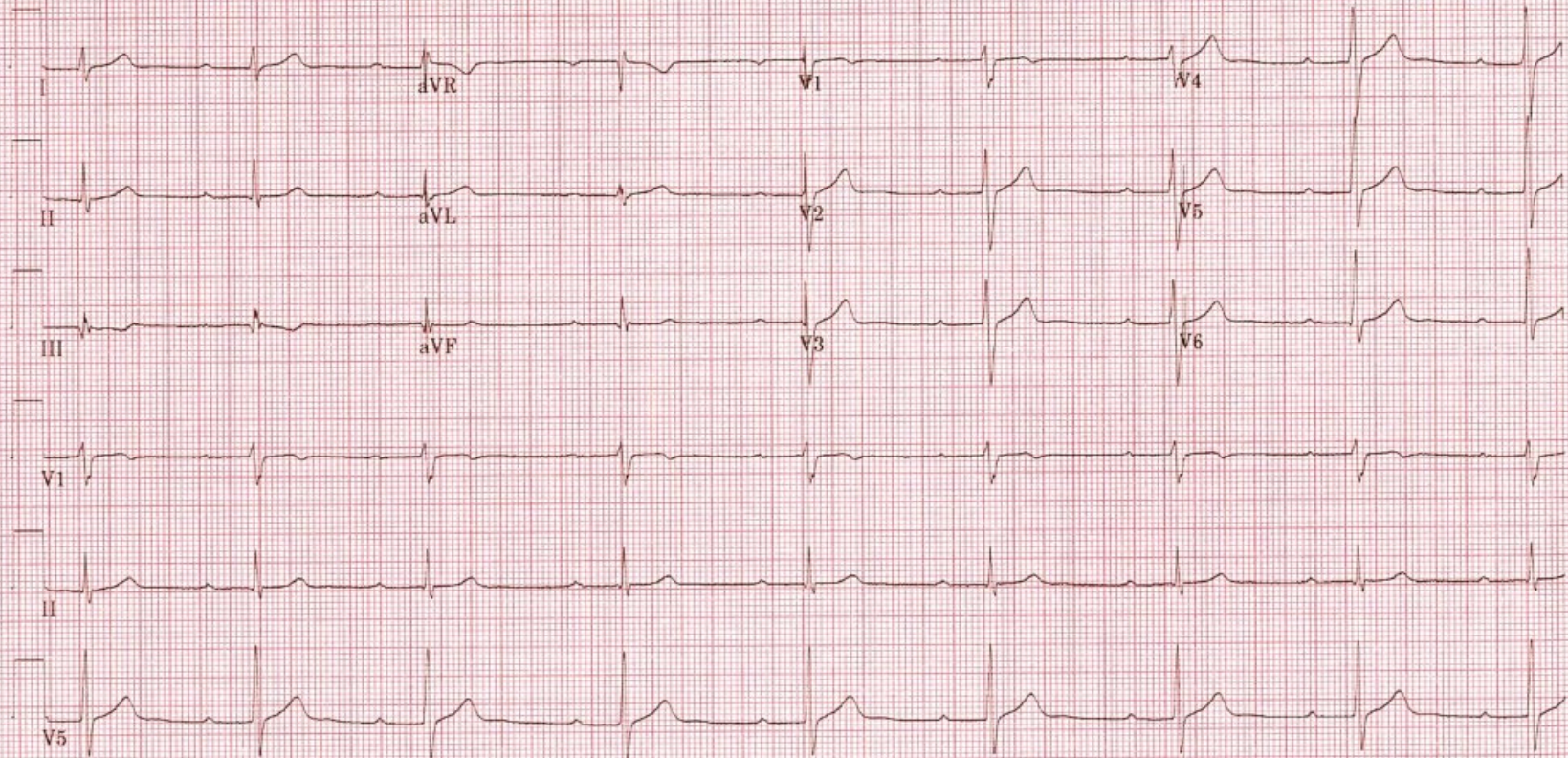
Technician: 4

Referred by:

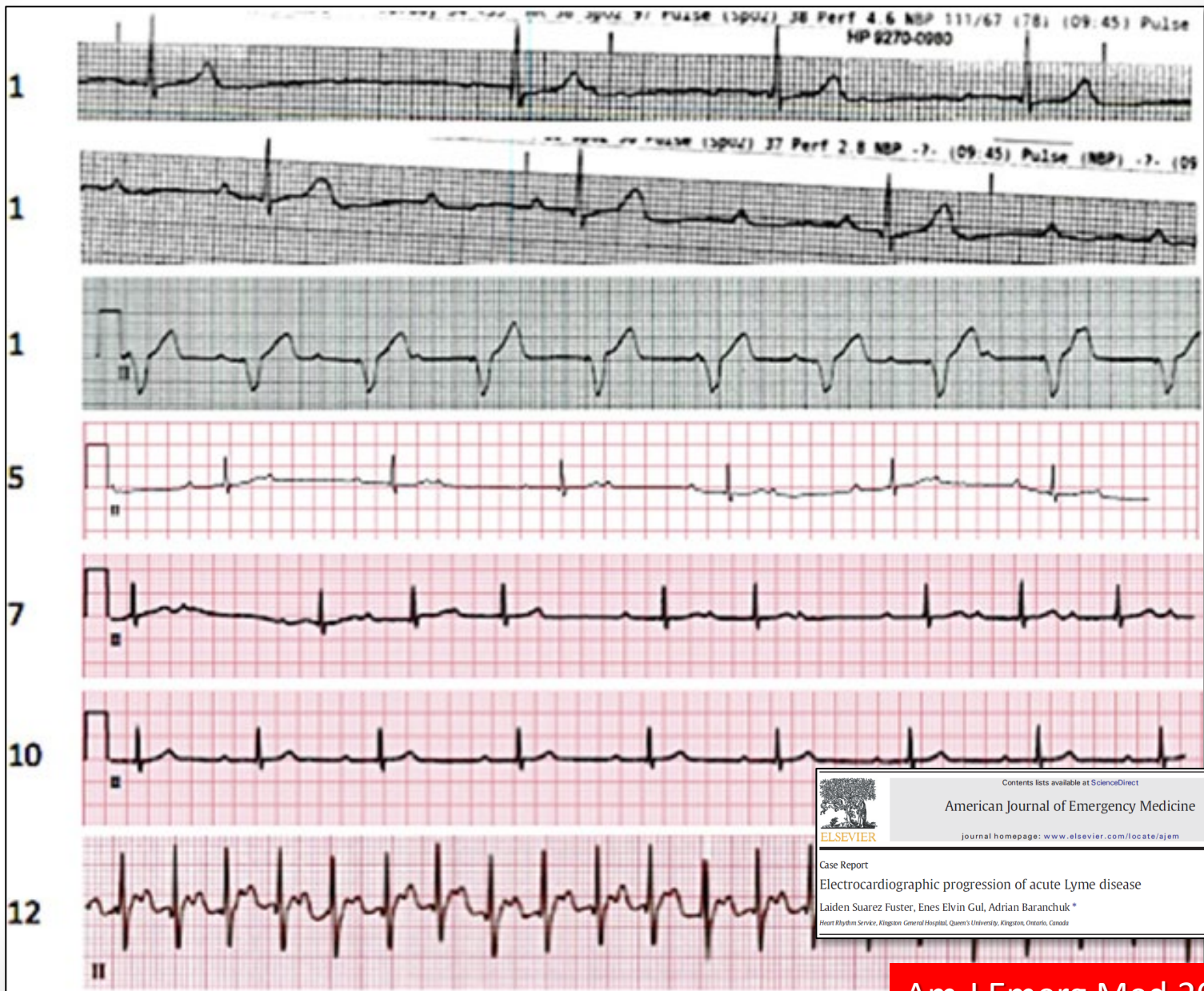
Unconfirmed

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:







Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

American Journal of Emergency Medicine

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ajem](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ajem)

Case Report

Electrocardiographic progression of acute Lyme disease

Laiden Suarez Fuster, Enes Elvin Gul, Adrian Branchuk \*

Heart Rhythm Service, Kingston General Hospital, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada



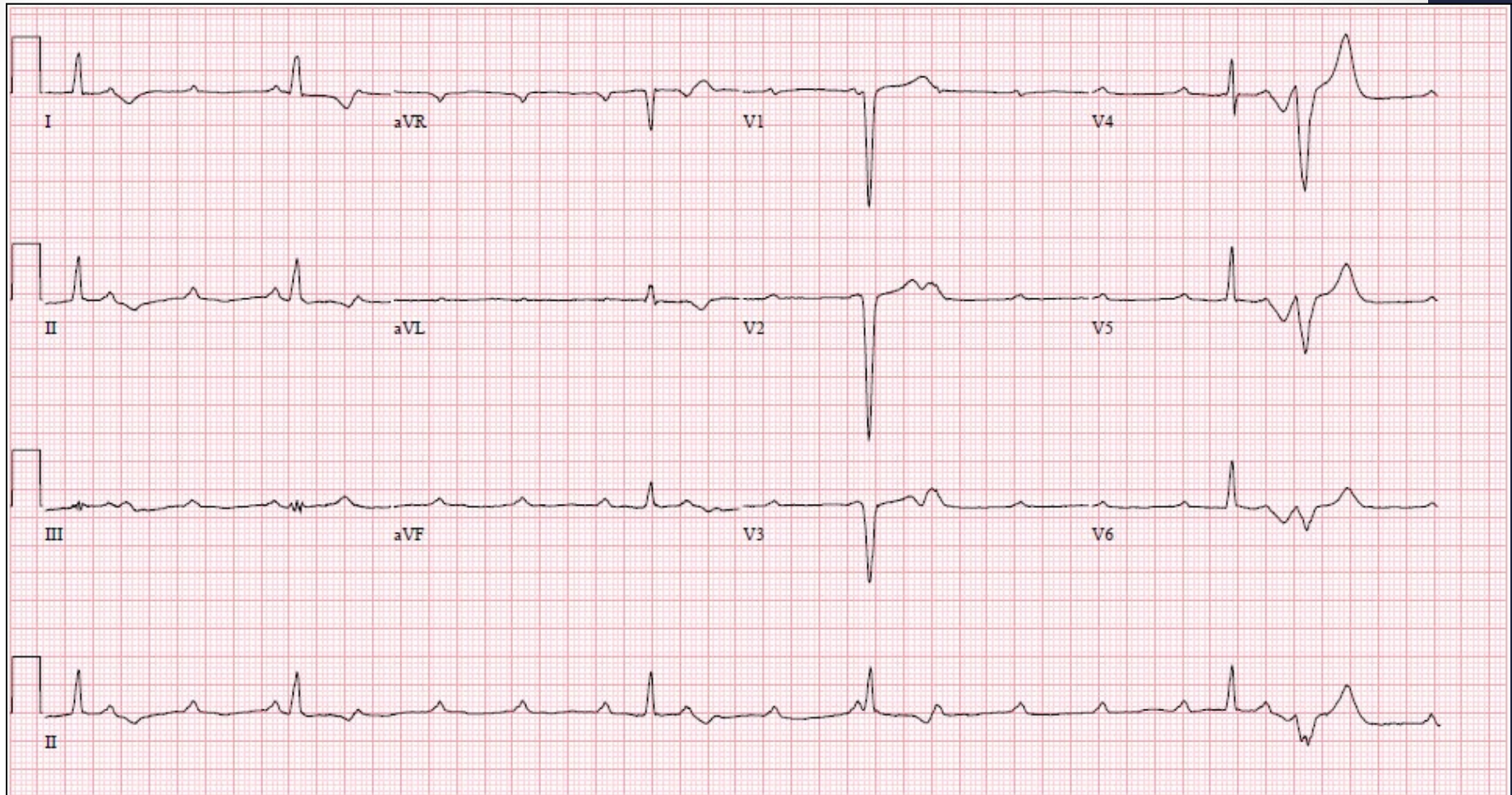


# Case Study #2

- 35 year old male
- Risk factors: works as a *roofer* in the Kingston area, no bug bite recollection, no classic target lesions, abuse of cocaine and marijuana
  - Reports syncope with facial trauma preceded by “flu-like” symptoms
- Admitted to KGH with high-degree AV block
- ECG showed high-degree AV block with HR <35 bpm
- Serology for Lyme sent day 1 (positive); Ceftriaxone IV started (21 days)
- Temporary pacemaker inserted
  - Temporary pacemaker removed at day 5th
  - Echo: mild-moderate RV dysfunction
  - MRI: Mild RV dilation, RVEF 47%, no gadolinium enhancement
  - Angio: normal
  - Stress test pre-discharge: 1:1 conduction above 160 bpm

# Case Study #2

Day 1

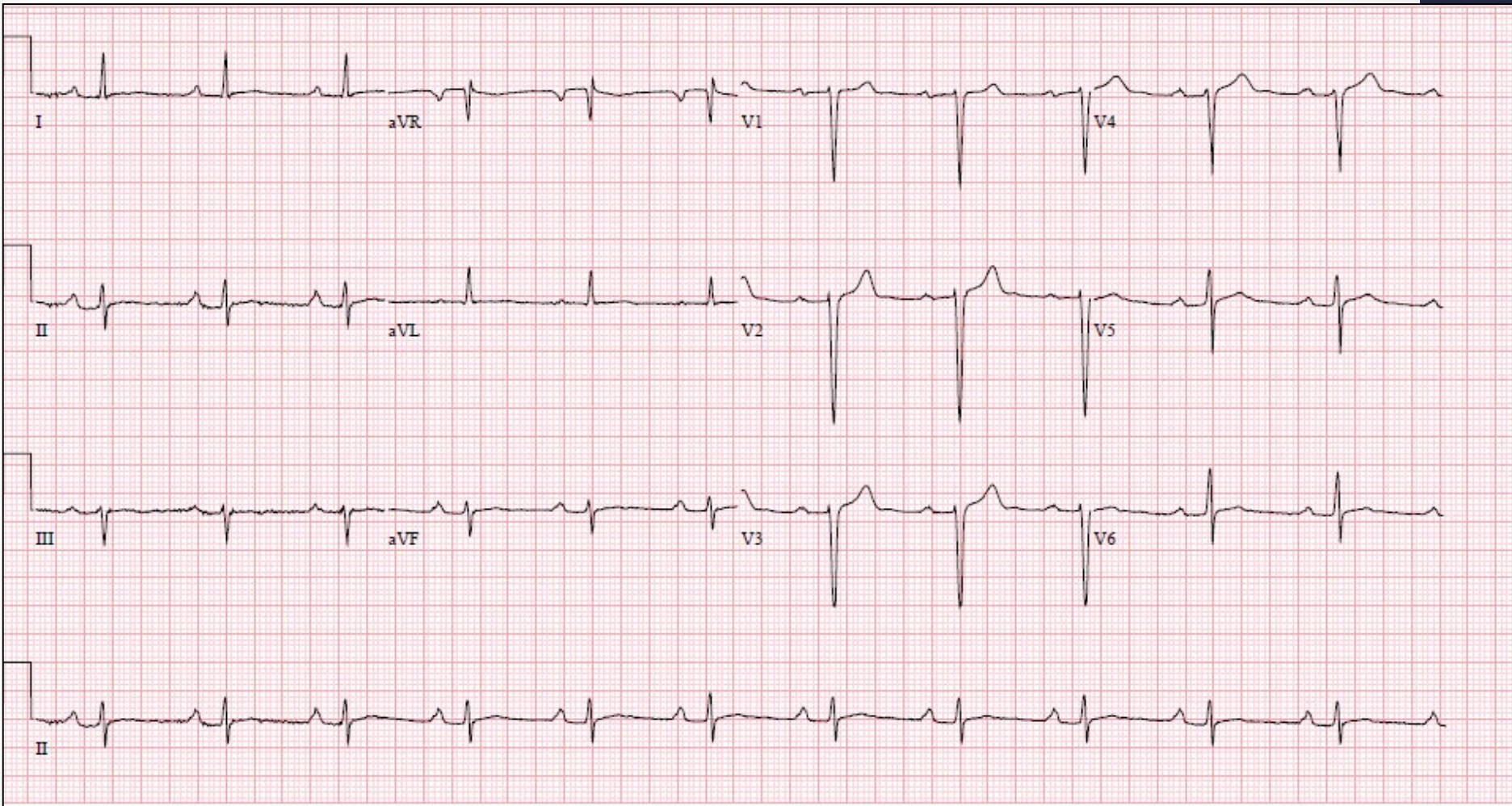


High degree AV Block



# Case Study #2

Day 6

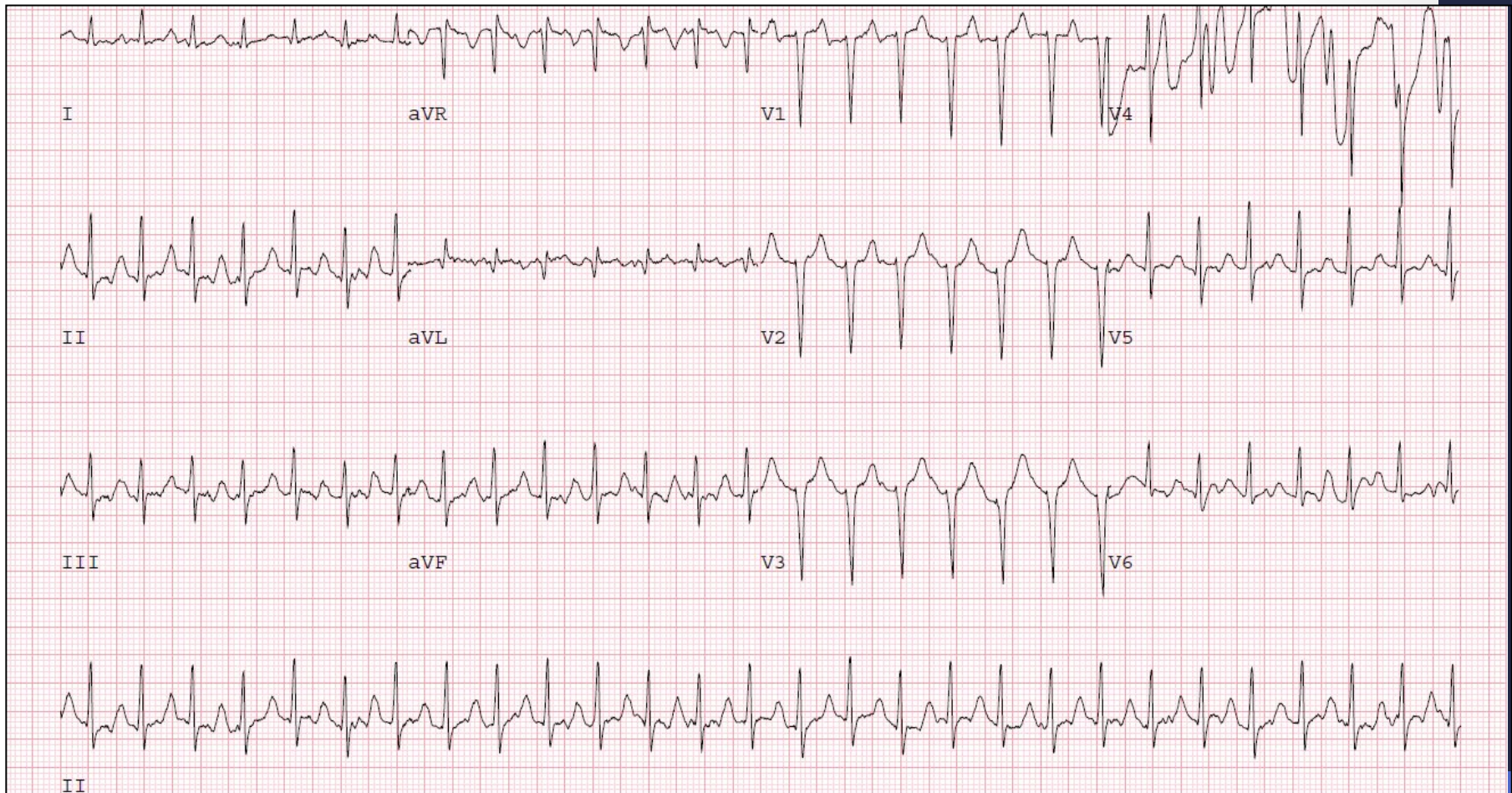


1st degree AV Block



# Case Study #2

Stress test  
pre-D/C



1:1 conduction up to 175 bpm

# Lyme Carditis and High-Degree Atrioventricular Block

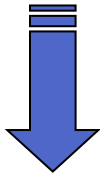
Douglas Wan, MD, Crystal Blakely, RN, Pamela Branscombe, RN, Laiden Suarez-Fuster, MD, Benedict Glover, MD, and Adrian Baranchuk, MD\*

*The*  
American Journal  
of  
Cardiology

Findings in 5 males with symptomatic Lyme disease and positive Lyme serology

	1	2	3	4	5
Age (years)	23	35	30	14	19
Recognized tick bite	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Erythema migrans	N	N	N	Y	N
Lyme suspected on visit #	4th	1st	2st	2nd	1st
Atrioventricular block	3°	3°	3°	2°	2°
Temporary pacing wire	N	Y	Y	N	N
High degree AVB resolution (days)	5d	3d	10d	6d	2d

Am J Cardiol 2018



**NO PERMANENT PACEMAKER IMPLANTED!!!**



# Lyme carditis and atrioventricular block

Douglas Wan MD, Adrian Baranchuk MD

CMAJ 2018

- 1 Lyme carditis may be an early manifestation of Lyme disease**  
Lyme disease is a tick-borne bacterial infection (mainly *Borrelia burgdorferi*)
- 2 A diagnosis of Lyme carditis should be considered in younger patients with severe conduction abnormalities**
- 3 Atrioventricular block in Lyme carditis can progress rapidly and be fatal**
- 4 Early treatment with antibiotics may prevent irreversible conduction disease in Lyme carditis**
- 5 Before considering implantation of a permanent pacemaker, clinicians should wait for response to antibiotic treatment for atrioventricular block requiring temporary pacing**





# The Queen's approach to the diagnosis & treatment of LC



Clin Cardiol 2018



## Suspicious index in Lyme carditis: Systematic review and proposed new risk score

Georgia Besant | Douglas Wan | Cynthia Yeung  | Crystal Blakely | Pamela Branscombe  
| Laiden Suarez-Fuster | Damian Redfearn | Christopher Simpson | Hoshiar Abdollah |  
Benedict Glover  | Adrian Baranchuk

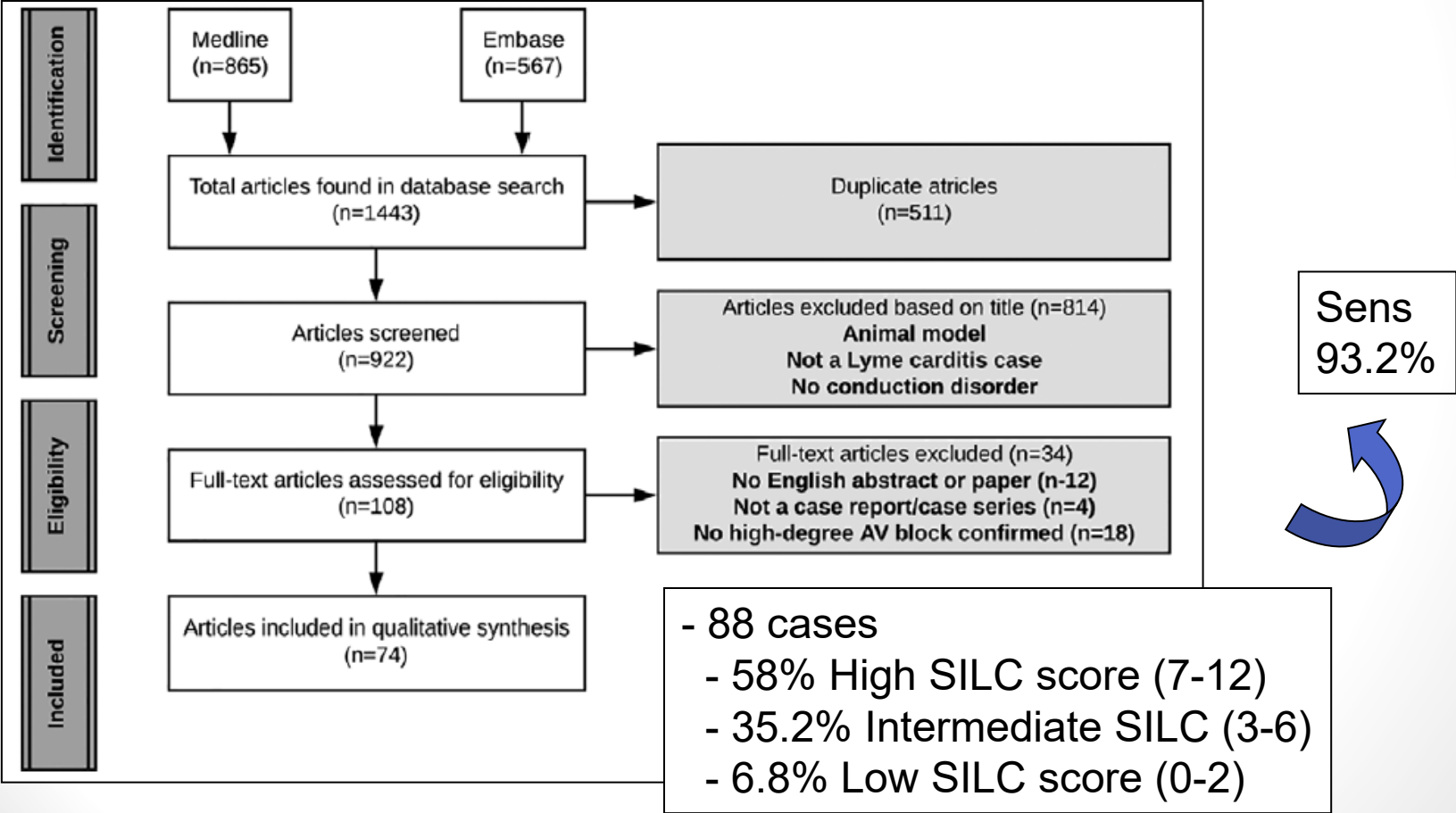
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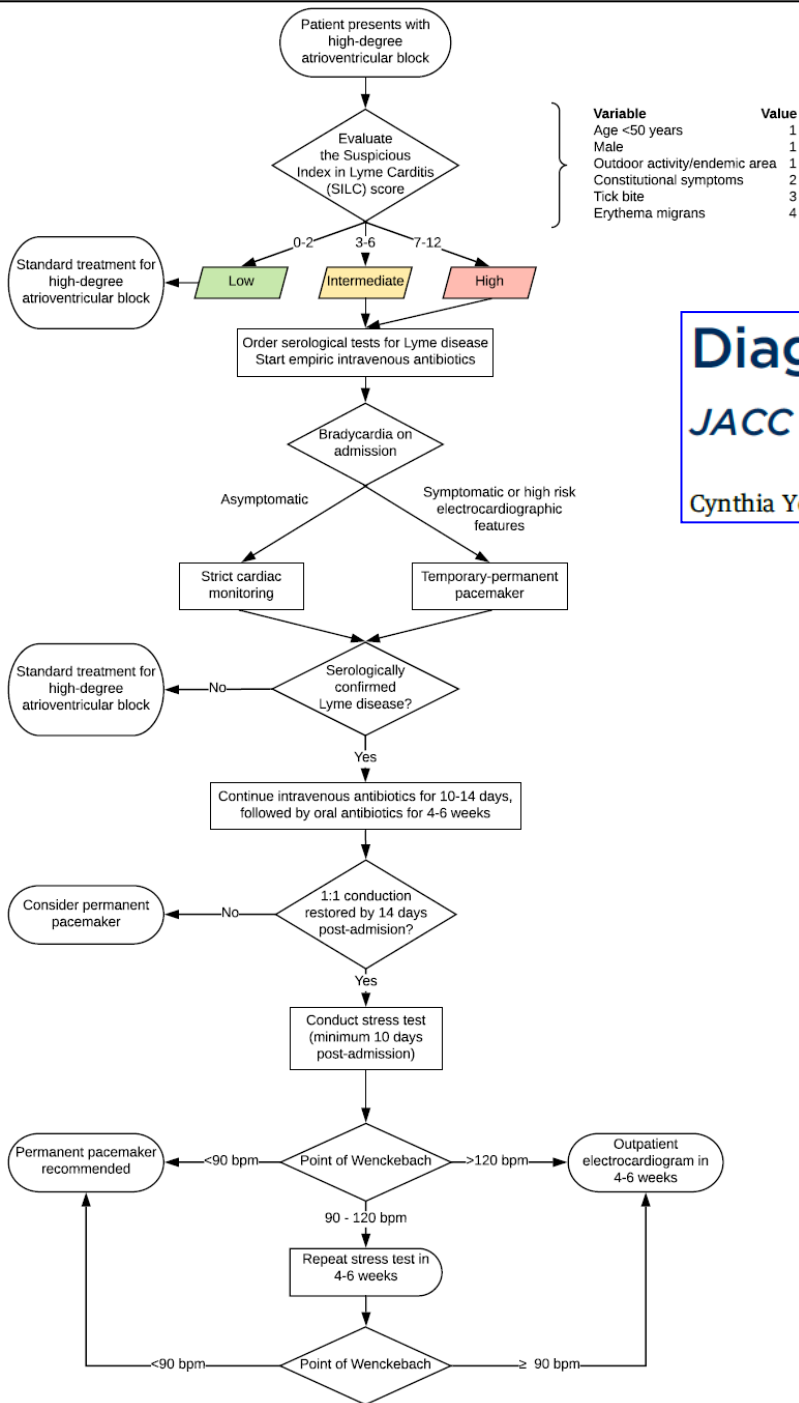
Variable	Value
Constitutional symptoms <sup>a</sup>	2
Outdoor activity/endemic area	1
Sex = male	1
Tick bite	3
Age < 50	1
Rash = erythema migrans	4

# Suspicious index in Lyme carditis: Systematic review and proposed new risk score

Georgia Besant | Douglas Wan | Cynthia Yeung  | Crystal Blakely | Pamela Branscombe  
| Laiden Suarez-Fuster | Damian Redfearn | Christopher Simpson | Hoshiar Abdollah |  
Benedict Glover  | Adrian Baranchuk

Clin Cardiol 2018





# Diagnosis and Treatment of Lyme Carditis

## JACC Review Topic of the Week

Cynthia Yeung, BSc, Adrian Baranchuk, MD



**JACC**

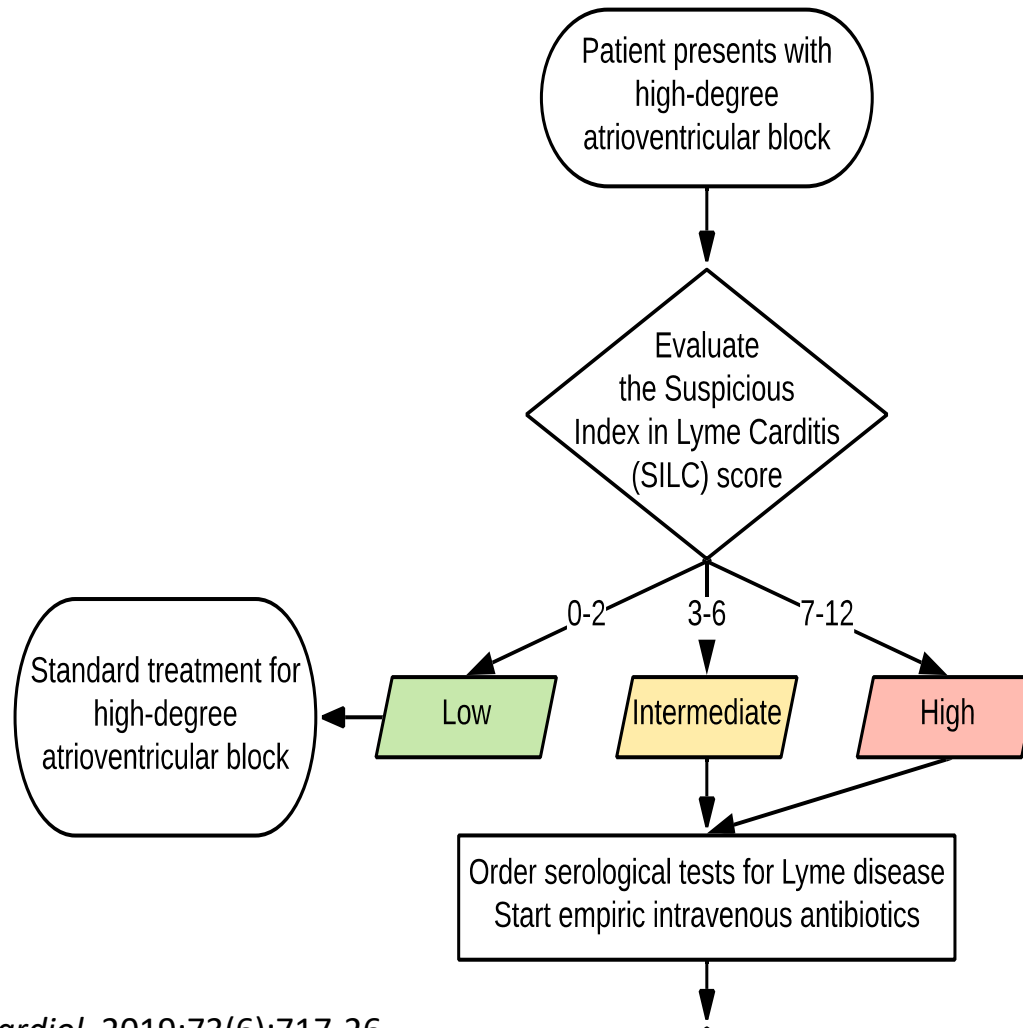
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

JACC; Feb 19 2019

# Diagnosis and Treatment of Lyme Carditis

## JACC Review Topic of the Week

Cynthia Yeung, BSc, Adrian Baranchuk, MD

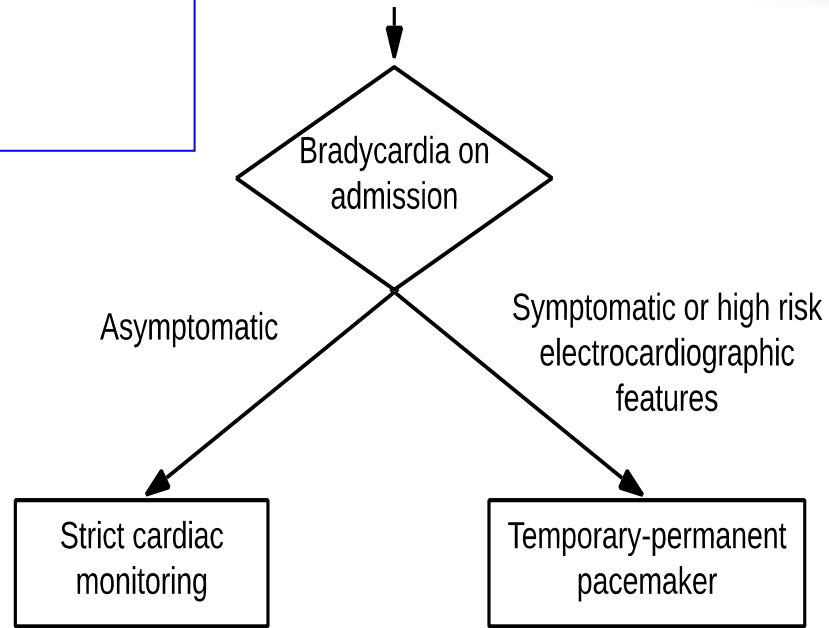


Variable	Value
Constitutional symptoms	2
Outdoor activity/endemic area	1
Sex: Male	1
Tick bite	3
Age < 50 years	1
Rash: Erythema migrans	4

# Diagnosis and Treatment of Lyme Carditis

JACC Review Topic of the Week

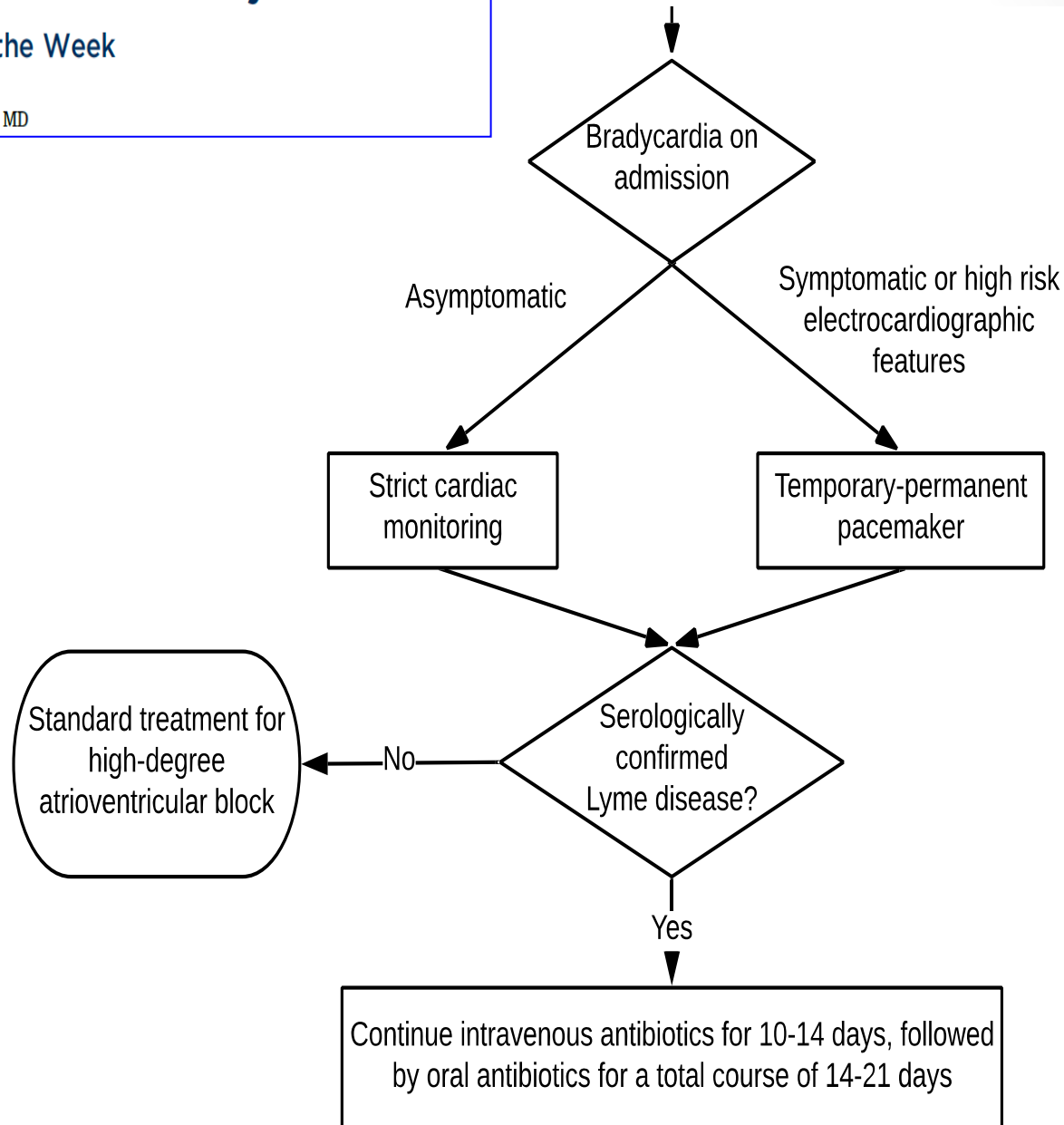
Cynthia Yeung, BSc, Adrian Branchuk, MD



# Diagnosis and Treatment of Lyme Carditis

JACC Review Topic of the Week

Cynthia Yeung, BSc, Adrian Branchuk, MD

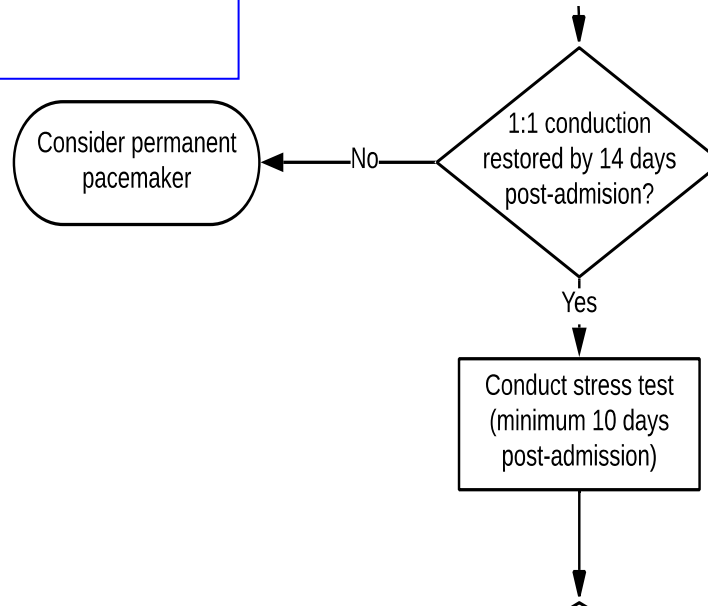




# Diagnosis and Treatment of Lyme Carditis

## JACC Review Topic of the Week

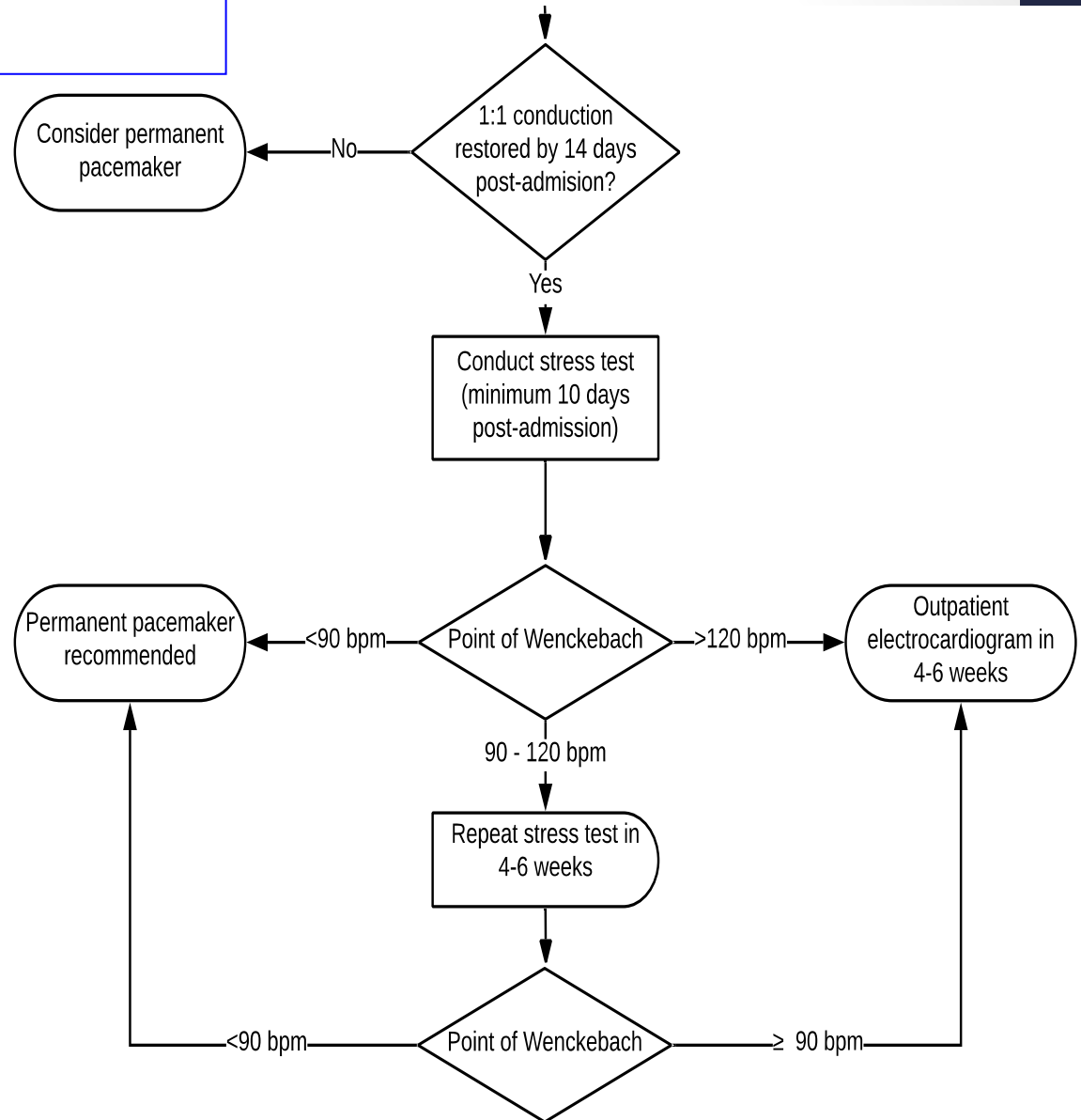
Cynthia Yeung, BSc, Adrian Baranchuk, MD



# Diagnosis and Treatment of Lyme Carditis

## JACC Review Topic of the Week

Cynthia Yeung, BSc, Adrian Branchuk, MD



# Diagnosis and Treatment of Lyme Carditis

JACC Review Topic of the Week

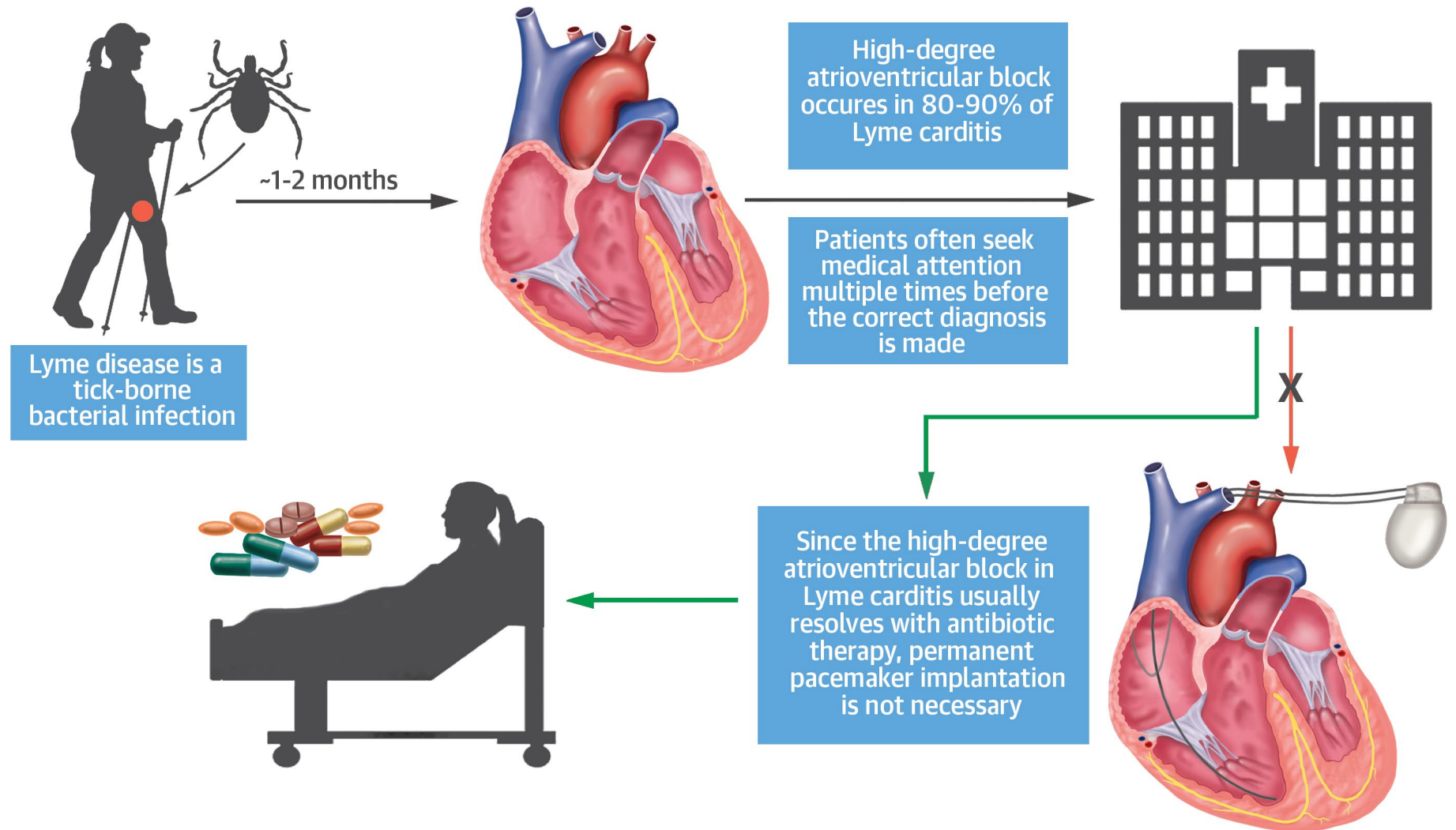
Cynthia Yeung, BSc, Adrian Baranchuk, MD



JACC

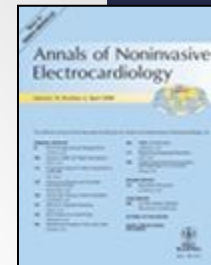
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

JACC 2019




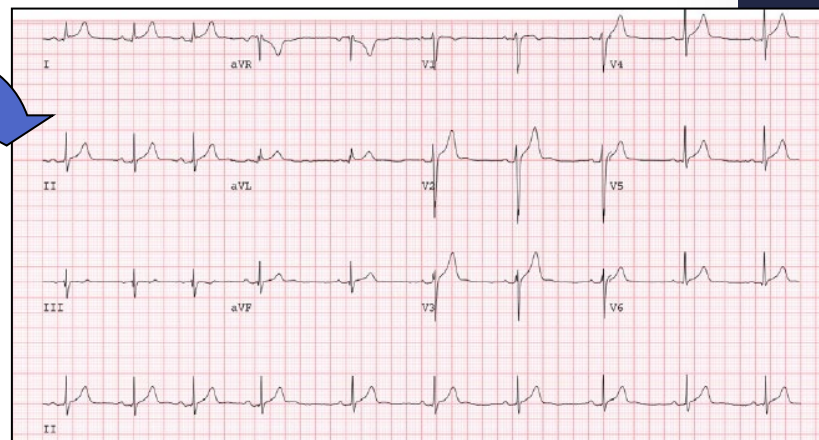
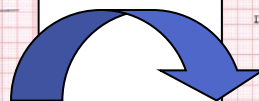
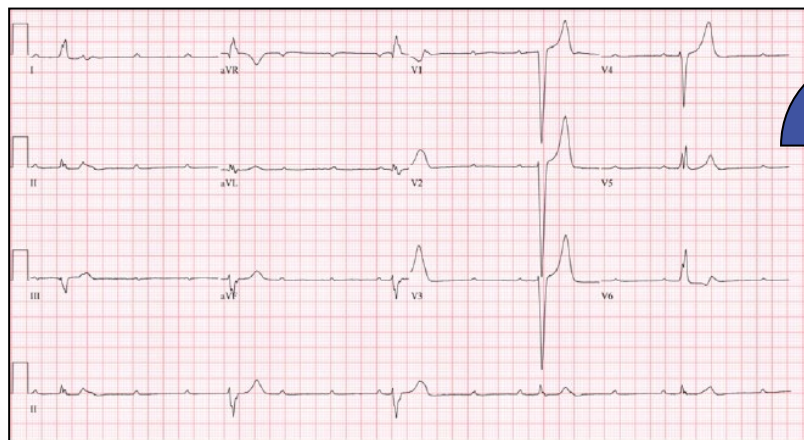
# Changes in our approach as we learn more...

ANEC 2018



## Treating Lyme carditis high-degree AV block using a temporary-permanent pacemaker

Chang Wang  | Sanoj Chacko | Hoshiar Abdollah | Adrian Baranchuk





# Lyme carditis presenting as sick sinus syndrome☆

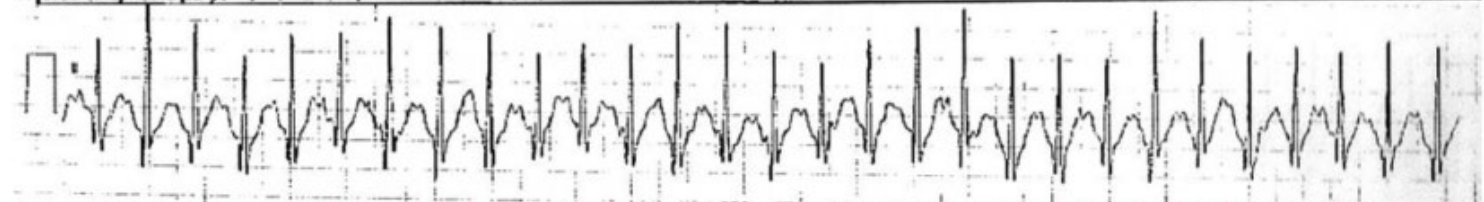
Naomi Gazendam, Cynthia Yeung, BSc, Adrian Baranchuk, MD\*

J Electrocardiol 2020

A



B



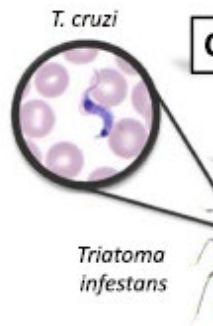
C



# Chagas' cardiomyopathy and Lyme carditis: Lessons learned from two infectious diseases affecting the heart ☆☆☆

Cynthia Yeung<sup>a</sup>, Ivan Mendoza<sup>b</sup>, Luis Eduardo Echeverria<sup>c</sup>, Adrian Baranchuk<sup>a,\*</sup>

Trends Cardiovasc Med 2020



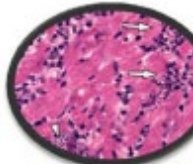
Chagas



Lyme

*B. burgdorferi*

*Triatoma infestans*



ant

benznidazole

indeter  
(2-3)



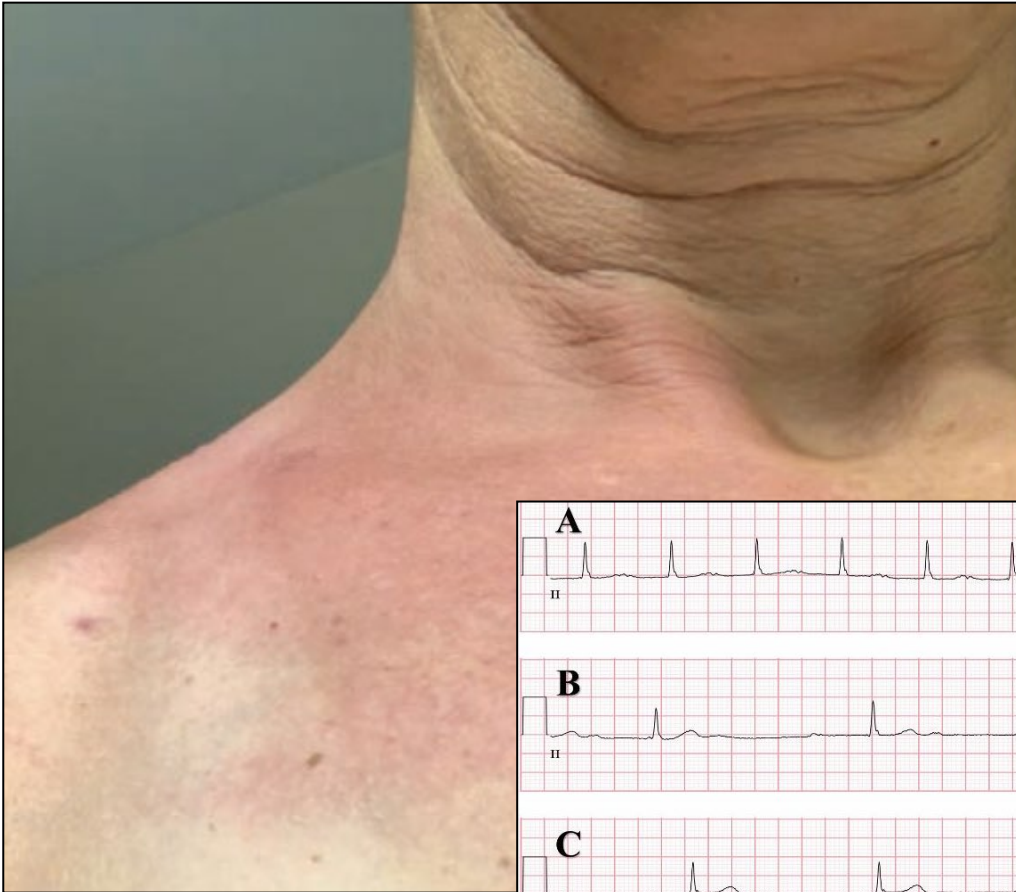
	Chagas	Lyme
Pathological organism	Protozoan flagellate parasite <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>	Spirochete flagellate bacteria Usually <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>
Vector	Triatominae insects ("kissing bug") Most commonly <i>Triatoma infestans</i>	Hard-bodied tick ("blacklegged tick" or "deer tick") Most commonly <i>Ixodes scapularis</i>
Modes of transmission	Vector-borne Vertical (mother to infant) Blood (transfusion or needle-stick injury) Organ transplantation Oral (ingestion of triatomine-contaminated foods)	Vector-borne Limited evidence for autochthonous modes of transmission
Endemic area	Latin America (Mexico to Argentina)	Some regions of Canada, United States, Mexico, central Europe, and Asia
Progression of disease		
Acute infection	Asymptomatic Non-specific constitutional symptoms Romaña's sign: periorbital swelling, palpebral edema and conjunctivitis	Asymptomatic Non-specific constitutional symptoms Erythema migrans: pathognomonic "bull's eye" rash
Early dissemination	Yes	Yes
Heart	Myocarditis	Atrioventricular block Less frequently myocarditis
Brain	Meningoencephalopathy	Meningitis, facial nerve palsy, neuropathy
Late dissemination	Cardiac: dilated cardiomyopathy	Cardiac: unknown Musculoskeletal: arthritis Nervous: encephalopathy, neuropathy
Conduction disorder	Nervous: dysautonomia Gastrointestinal: megaesophagus, megacolon Distal (infratrial): left anterior fascicular block, right bundle branch block in chronic phase	High-degree AVB (supratrial) in early phase
Diagnosis and treatment		
Serology (ELISA/ Western blot)	Yes	Yes
PCR	Yes	Yes
Treatment (acute phase)	Benznidazole Nifurtimox	Ceftriaxone Doxycycline Amoxicillin
Test to assess cure	No	No

Now:  
Lyme & COVID-19?

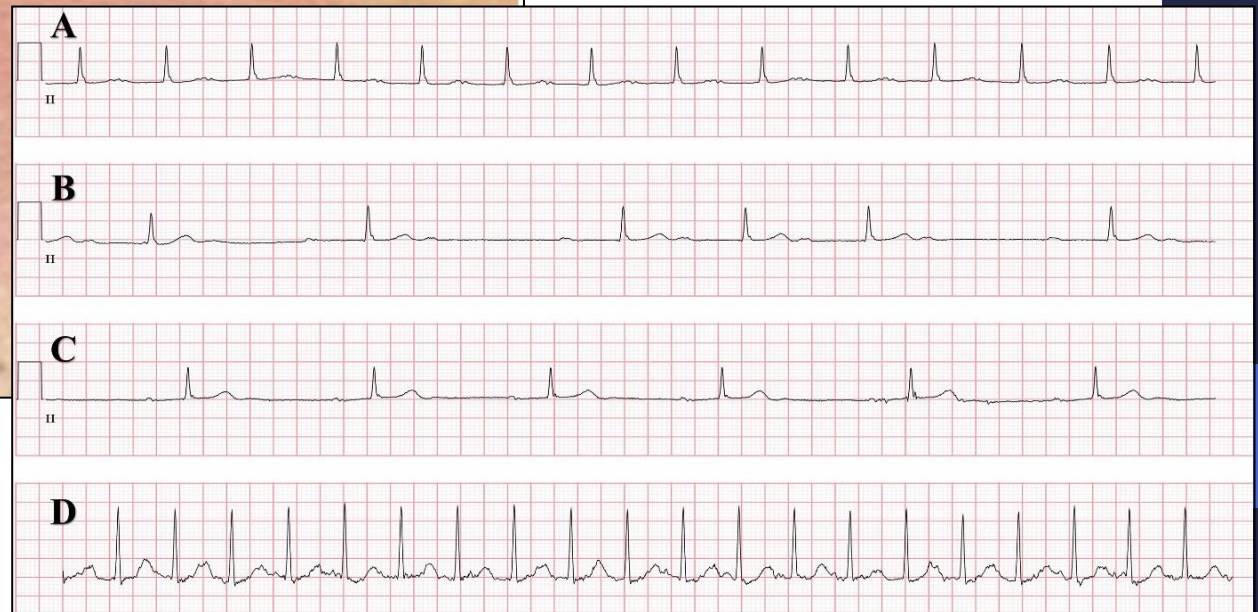
# Lyme carditis presenting with an atypical rash

Dennys Franco-Avecilla MD, Cynthia Yeung BSc, Adrian Baranchuk MD

CMAJ 2020



(55 y/o woman,  
SILC = 8 (high!))





# Long-term Outcomes in Treated Lyme Carditis

(more than 12 months FU)

- A prospective observational study of patients with serologically-confirmed LC from our center treated with a Protocol designed at our institution.
- Patients with clinical follow-up and electrocardiogram  $\geq 12$  months

Demographics	
Age (years)	27 (14-35)
Male (%)	100
Initial admission for Lyme carditis	
Suspicious Index in Lyme Carditis score	7 (5-12)
Temporary pacing wire (%)	20
Abnormal echocardiogram during admission (%)	40
Time to resolution of conduction abnormalities (days)	4.5 (2-10)
Follow-up	
Asymptomatic (%)	100
Sinus rhythm (%)	100
Heart rate (bpm)	48.5 (47-103)
PR interval (ms)	164 (150-188)
QRS interval (ms)	92 (82-102)

**Mean follow up time 17 months (range 14-44 months)**

Forrester JD, Meiman J, Mullins J, et al. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [Notes from the field: update on Lyme carditis, groups at high risk, and frequency of associated sudden cardiac death—United States](#). *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2014 Oct 31;63(43):982-3.

Fuster LS, Gul EE, Baranchuk A. Electrocardiographic progression of acute Lyme disease. *Am J Emerg Med*. 2017 Jul;35(7):1040.e5-1040.e6.

Marx GE, Leikauskas J, Lindstrom K, et al. [Fatal Lyme carditis in New England: Two case reports](#) [ ]. *Ann Intern Med*. 2019 Oct 22. [Epub ahead of print]

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Lyme carditis can either be treated with oral or intravenous (IV) antibiotics, depending on severity (see tables below). Some patients might need a

Third Degree Heart