

Lyme disease: diagnosis and management

[C] Evidence reviews for diagnostic tests

NICE guideline

Diagnostic evidence review

September 2017

Draft for Consultation

*This evidence review was developed by
the National Guideline Centre*

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Introduction

The symptoms of Lyme disease, other than erythema migrans (EM), such as facial palsy, joint pains or nerve pains can be seen in many other conditions. Diagnostic tests are used to identify those cases in which Lyme disease is the cause, so that appropriate treatment can be given and ensure that other important diseases are not misdiagnosed as Lyme disease. It is important that the tests used have both the ability to identify infection with the Lyme disease bacteria and to discriminate this from other causes of infection or disease.

Blood tests looking for antibodies to the Lyme bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* (serological tests) are the most common tests performed when Lyme disease is suspected. Other tests such a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) can identify fragments of bacteria; however, they are not useful for the majority of people with Lyme disease. There are numerous Lyme disease diagnostic tests available using different antigens from the range of genospecies of *B. burgdorferi*.

This chapter covers 3 review questions that aim to determine the most accurate initial test, confirmatory test and test combination:

- In people with suspected (or under investigation for) Lyme disease, what is the most accurate initial test to identify whether Lyme disease is present?
- In people with a positive test for Lyme disease, what is the most accurate test to confirm or rule out Lyme disease?
- In people with suspected (or under investigation for) Lyme disease, what is the most accurate combination of tests to identify whether Lyme disease is present?

1 Initial tests for Lyme disease

1.1 Review question: In people with suspected (or under investigation for) Lyme disease, what is the most accurate initial test to identify whether Lyme disease is present?

1.2 PICO table

For full details, see the review protocol in appendix A.

Table 1: PICO characteristics of review question

Population	Adults (18 years and over), young people (12 to 17 years) and children (under 12 years) with suspected (or under investigation for) Lyme disease
Target condition	Lyme disease, specifically conditions caused by <i>Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato</i>
Index tests	<p>Serology assays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Borrelia</i> recomLine IgG (Mikrogen) • <i>Borrelia</i> ViraStripe IgM/IgG (Viramed) • C6 ELISA (Immunitics) • Diasorin LIAISON <i>Borrelia</i> IgM Quant • Enzygnost Lyme link IgG/VlsE (Siemens) • VIDAS Lyme IgM and IgG (Biomerieux) • Other assays used elsewhere in the world: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-RN-AT IgG (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-WB IgG, IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLONE-RN-AT IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> plus VlsE ELISA (IgG) & anti-<i>Borrelia</i> ELISA (IgM; Euroimmun) ○ <i>B Burgdorferi</i> IgG EIA (Diagnostic Automation) ○ <i>Borrelia</i> ViraChip IgG/IgM assay (ViraMed) ○ Capita™ <i>B. burgdorferi</i> IgG.IgM EIA (Trinity Biotech) ○ Genzyme Virotech <i>Borrelia</i> Europe Line (Virotech) ○ Immunoblot IgG (IGeneX) ○ MardX EU Lyme and VLSE Immunoblots (Trinity Biotech) ○ NovaLisa IgG EIA (Nova Tec) ○ Premier Lyme EIA IgG/IgM (Meridian Bioscience Inc.) ○ recomBead <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM v2.0 (Mikrogen) ○ RecomLine <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM Immunoblot (Mikrogen) ○ RecomWell <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Mikrogen) ○ SeraSpot Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Seramun Diagnostica GmbH) ○ VIR-ELISA anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (VIRO-IMMUN Labor-Diagnostika GmbH) <p>Direct microscopic visualisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biopsy/histology <p>Lymphocyte transformation tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EliSpot • LTT-MELISA® • SpiroFind™ assay (Boulder Diagnostics) <p>CD57 test</p>

	<p>Inflammatory markers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-reactive protein (CRP) • Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) <p>Full blood count:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eosinophil • Haemoglobin • Lymphocyte • Monocyte • Neutrophil/Band/ANC • Platelet • White blood cell (WBC) <p>CXCL13 (from a cerebrospinal fluid [CSF] or serum sample)</p> <p>PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSF analysis <p>Synovial fluid analysis</p>
Reference standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Borrelia</i> culture (Spirochaete is difficult to culture and grows slowly; therefore, it is not compatible with providing a rapid diagnostic result). • Clinical diagnosis • PCR <p>All index tests compared with all reference tests and reference tests compared with each other (in this case clinical diagnosis will be the reference standard).</p>
Statistical measures	<p>Detecting Lyme disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sensitivity • Important: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specificity ○ Positive Predictive Value ○ Negative Predictive Value ○ Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve or area under curve
Study design	<p>Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sectional studies, in which the index test(s) and the reference standard test are applied to the same people in a cross-sectional design <p>Exclude (unless there is insufficient evidence and agreed to include with the committee):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-gate or case-control study designs that compare the results of the index test in people with an established diagnosis with its results in healthy controls. <p>Exclude:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case series • Case reports

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We searched for studies assessing the diagnostic test accuracy of any of the above-mentioned tests to identify whether Lyme disease is present. The search found a very large number of studies because we could not define any limits for our clinical evidence search

1 without risking the omission of relevant papers. It was not possible to identify whether a study
2 provided evidence for the review question on initial tests, confirmatory tests or combination of
3 tests based on the title and abstract alone. Therefore, one search was undertaken and sifted
4 to identify the clinical evidence for all 3 review questions. The PRISMA flow-chart (appendix
5 C) and the excluded studies list (appendix I) reflect this approach in all 3 subchapters of this
6 evidence report: initial tests, confirmatory tests and combination of tests for Lyme disease.

7 **1.3 Clinical evidence**

8 **1.3.1 Included studies**

9 One hundred-twenty studies (123 papers) were included in the review.^{8,14,16-18,21,24,27,32-34,39}
10 ,45,48,49,53,54,62,74,85,90,108,123,124,126,129,132,135,139,140,145,154,161,162,164,165,167,172,175-177,182,186,190
11 ,194,199,200,202,204,207,211,215,221,225,226,228,229,231,236,238,241,243,247,253,267,272,279,281,288,297,302,304,305
12 ,307,308,313,332-335,344,349,355,356,364,371,382-384,392,393,406,409,411,416,422-424,431,433,439,443,446,448,455,458
13 ,462,463,466,474,475,477,481,485,492-494,497,498,510,517,519,532 These are summarised in Table 2, Table
14 3, Table 4, Table 5 and Table 6 below.

15 One hundred-eleven studies (114 papers) were in adults; 102 case-control studies (105
16 papers)^{8,14,17,32-34,45,48,49,53,54,62,74,85,90,108,123,124,126,132,135,139,140,145,161,162,164,165,167,177,182}
17 ,186,190,194,199,200,202,204,207,215,221,225,226,228,229,231,236,238,241,247,267,272,279,281,288,297,302,304,305,307
18 ,308,313,332-334,344,349,355,356,364,371,382-384,392,393,406,409,411,416,422-424,431,433,439,443,448,455,458,462,463
19 ,466,475,477,481,485,492-494,497,498,510,517,519 and 9 cross-sectional studies.^{24,27,39,154,175,176,253,335}
20 ,474

21 Nine studies were in children; these included 5 case-control studies^{129,172,211,446,532} and 4
22 cross-sectional studies.^{16,18,21,243}

23 Evidence from the included studies is summarised in the clinical evidence profile below. See
24 also the study selection flow chart in appendix C, sensitivity and specificity forest plots in
25 appendix E, study evidence tables in appendix D and exclusion list in appendix I.

26 Some studies included a very wide age range. We included these in the evidence for adults
27 as the mean or median age of the study population was well above 18, indicating that the
28 majority of included people were adults. There were no studies specifically conducted in
29 young people aged 12 to 17.

30 The included studies varied significantly by test, study population and clinical presentation,
31 which made it impossible to meta-analyse the large number of results. Given the general lack
32 of evidence from cross-sectional studies, which are the most robust study design for
33 diagnostic accuracy studies, case-control studies were also included in this review. The
34 committee considered the entirety of the evidence when making recommendations.

35 Three different reference standards were identified for this review: *Borrelia* culture,
36 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and clinical diagnosis. *B burgdorferi* is difficult to culture
37 and grows slowly; therefore, it is not compatible with providing a rapid diagnostic result. As a
38 result, culture is rarely used as a reference standard in clinical studies. In cases where
39 *Borrelia* culture or PCR were used as an index test in any of the included studies, clinical
40 diagnosis would function as the reference standard.

41 Overall, the committee found the evidence difficult to interpret due to the differences within
42 and between the studies, which meant that meta-analyses were not possible. Studies varied
43 widely in populations, both cases and controls, the types of tests used, test implementation
44 and interpretation of test results. To improve comparability between results only healthy
45 controls were included in the analyses if possible.

1 **1.3.2 Excluded studies**

2 See the excluded studies list in appendix I.

1.3.3 Summary of clinical studies included in the evidence review

Table 2: Summary of included case-control studies (adults)

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Ang 2015 ⁸	<p>n=369</p> <p>EM (n=214) Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans (ACA; n=28) Neuroborreliosis (n=102) Arthritis (n=25)</p> <p>Age: not reported</p>	<p>n=228</p> <p>Healthy controls</p>	<p>Enzyme immunoassay (EIA)</p> <p>Western blot (WB)</p>	<p><i>IgM and IgG</i></p> <p><u>Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA):</u> Diacheck Moran, Switzerland</p> <p>Enzygnost Siemens, Germany</p> <p><i>Borrelia</i> microplate plus VlsE Euroimmun</p> <p><i>Borrelia</i> ELISA test kit Sekisui/Virotech</p> <p>Serion ELISA classic Virion, Germany</p> <p>RecomWell Mikrogen, Germany</p> <p><i>Borrelia</i> EISA Medac</p>	Serum	<p>ESCMID Study Group for Lyme Borreliosis (ESGBOR) guidelines</p> <p>Clinical diagnosis PCR confirmation Histopathology CSF pleocytosis</p>	<p>IgM and IgG equals positive result for IgM or IgG</p> <p>Borderline results excluded from the analysis as the study authors did not necessarily interpret them as positive evidence of infection</p>

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
				Laison DiaSorin, Italy <u>Western blot:</u> RecomLine Mikrogen, Germany			
Åsbrink 1985 ¹⁴	n=123 EM (n=88) ACA (n=26) EM-related extracutaneous manifestations (n=9) Age: not reported	n=185 Aged: 17-80 years	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Bacon 2003 ¹⁷	n=280 Acute Lyme (n=80) Early convalescent (n=106) Early neurological (n=15) Early neurological convalescent (n=11) Arthritis (n=33) Arthritis convalescent (n=24) Late neurologic (n=11)	n=257 Healthy controls	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> rVlsE1 IgG kELISA rVlsE1 IgM kELISA C6-IgG kELISA pep10 IgM kELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis CDC criteria	
Branda 2010 ³²	n=162 Massachusetts: Culture-confirmed EM (n=79) Acute neuritis or carditis	n=195 Healthy controls (n=166) Other	EIA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> VIDAS Lyme IgG and IgM BioMerieux SA Wampole <i>B burgdorferi</i>	Serum	Clinical diagnosis CDC surveillance criteria for	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	(n=12) Arthritis or late neuritis (n=23) Westchester: Culture-confirmed EM (n=27) Acute neuritis or carditis (n=15) Arthritis or late neuritis (n=6) Age: not reported	illness (n=29)		IgG/M ELISA II assay <i>Borrelia</i> B31 IgM Virablot Viramed <i>Borrelia</i> B31 IgG Birablot plus VlsE Viramed		Lyme disease	
Branda 2011 ³³	n=169 EM (n=114) Acute neuritis or carditis (n=26) Arthritis or late neuritis (n=29) Age: not reported	n=1,300 Healthy controls	EIA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> C6 <i>B burgdorferi</i> ELISA Immunitics	Serum	Clinical diagnosis CDC surveillance criteria for Lyme disease	
Branda 2013 ³⁴	n=64 Early or late Lyme disease Age: not reported	n=100 Healthy controls	ELISA Immunoblot (IB)	<i>IgM and IgG</i> <u>ELISA:</u> Enzygnost Borreliosis Siemens, Germany Ezygnost Lyme Link VlsE/IgG Siemens, Germany	Serum	Clinical diagnosis European Lyme disease criteria	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
				<p>Wampole <i>B burgdorferi</i> IgG/IgM ELISA II Alere Inc., USA</p> <p>C6 <i>B burgdorferi</i> Immunitics Inc., USA</p> <p><u>Immunoblot:</u> <i>Borrelia</i> MiQ and VlsE IgM test kit Viramed, Germany</p> <p><i>Borrelia</i> MiQ and VlsE IgG test kit Viramed, Germany</p> <p><i>Borrelia</i> B31 ViraBlot IgM test kit Viramed, Germany</p> <p><i>Borrelia</i> B31 plus VlsE ViraBlot IgG test kit Viramed, Germany</p>			
Callister 2002 ⁴⁵	<p>n=34</p> <p>EM</p> <p>Age: not reported</p>	<p>n=34</p> <p>Other symptoms unrelated to Lyme</p>	Western blot	<p><i>IgM and IgG</i></p> <p>Western blot MRL Diagnostics, USA</p>	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Cerar 2006 ⁴⁹	n=383	n=49	IFA	<i>IgM and IgG</i>	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Lyme suspected (n=198) EM (n=76) Neuroborreliosis (n=28) Early Lyme <6 months (n=60) Chronic Lyme >6 months (n=21) Age: not reported	Healthy blood donors		IFA			
Cerar 2010 ⁴⁸	n=61 Clinically evident neuroborreliosis (n=34), clinically suspected neuroborreliosis (n=27) Age (median) Evident: 56 years Suspected: 52 years	n=32 TBE	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> IDEIA kit DakoCytomation Denmark, Denmark	CSF Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Only confirmed neuroborreliosis included in analysis; Borderline results were excluded
Christova 2003 ⁵³	n=105 EM Age: not reported	n=90 Healthy blood donors	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA BoehringWerke, Germany	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Cinco 2006 ⁵⁴	n=76 EM (n=54) Lyme arthritis (n=15) Neuroborreliosis (n=6) Age: not reported	n=59 Blood donors	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> C6-ELISA kit Immunitics, USA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis Culture for EM	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Coyle 1993 ⁶²	n=77 Clinical evidence of <i>B burgdorferi</i> infection and neurological problems Age (mean): 34 years (3-84)	n=34 Other neurological diseases	ELISA	<i>IgG</i> ELISA	CSF	Clinical diagnosis	
D'Arco 2017 ⁷⁴	n=171 Early Lyme disease (n=152), Lyme arthritis (n=19) Age: not reported	n=139 Healthy individuals	ELISA	ELISA C6	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Dessau 2010 ⁸⁵	n=117 Neuroborreliosis Assumed active infection with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> Age (median): 50 years (3-87) 33 children, 26 adults up to 50 years, 57 adults above 50 years	n=815 Healthy blood donor sera	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> IDEIA <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> IgM and IgG UK	Serum	Clinical diagnosis, positive test for intrathecal antibody production, leucocyte count in CSF of $5 \times 10^6/L$	
Dressler 1993 ⁹⁰	Retrospective study: n=100 EM (n=25) Meningitis (n=25)	Retrospective study: n=125 MS (n=15) Influenza	ELISA IB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA Miniblot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Time point: mean 8 days after onset of symptoms for people with EM

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Arthritis (n=25) Late neuroborreliosis (n=25) Age: not reported Prospective study: n=54 Lyme arthritis (n=25) Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=29) Age: not reported	vaccination (n=25) ALS (n=10) RA (n=15) SLE (n=10) CFS (n=25) Syphilis (n=25) Prospective study: n=139 Fibromyalgia (n=32), other rheumatic (n=62), other neurologic (n=45)		Bio-Rad Lab, CA, USA			
Fallon 2014 ¹⁰⁸	n=37 Post treatment Lyme syndrome Age (mean): 46.5 years (SD 10.5)	n=40 Healthy controls	ELISA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> C6 ELISA Western blot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis (n=37) Positive IgG Western blot (n=26)	
Flisiak 1996 ¹²³	n=42 EM (n=18) Arthritis (n=7)	n=27 Healthy volunteers	EIA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> <u>ELISA:</u> Lyme borreliosis	Serum	Clinical diagnosis CDC	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Neuroborreliosis (n=17) Age: not reported			Dako, Denmark Borrelio Recombinant Biomedica, Austria VIDAS Lyme Screen II bioMerieux, France		definitions	
Flisiak 1998 ¹²⁴	n=48 EM (n=19) Arthritis (n=21) Neuroborreliosis (n=8) Age: not reported	n=26 Healthy controls	EIA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> <u>ELISA:</u> Lyme borreliosis Dako, Denmark VIDAS Lyme Screen II bioMerieux, France <u>Western blot:</u> Germany	Serum	Clinical diagnosis CDC definitions	
Fung 1994 ¹²⁶	n=75 EM Age: not reported	n=106 Influenza vaccine (n=15) MS (n=12) ALS (n=9) RA (n=12) SLE (n=9) CFS (n=19) Syphilis (n=30)	ELISA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA Mini-Protean II western blot BioRad	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Goettner	n=85	n=110	WB	<i>IgG</i>	Serum	Clinical	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
2005 ¹³²	EM (n=15) Neuroborreliosis (n=50) ACA (n=10) Lyme arthritis (n=10)	Healthy blood donors (n=60) Syphilis (n=10) Rheumatoid factor positive (n=10) Fever of unknown origin (n=30)	Lineblot			diagnosis	
Gomes-Solecki 2001 ¹³⁵	n=120 EM or abnormalities related to late Lyme disease such as arthritis, AV-block or neurological symptoms Age: not reported	n=100 Healthy controls from endemic area	ELISA RRA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA Wampole Laboratories Recombinant Rapid Assay	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Goossens 2000 ¹⁴⁰ [Goossens 1999 ¹³⁹]	n=39 Early Lyme (n=26) Late Lyme (n=13) Age: not reported	n=190 Healthy controls (n=62)	EIA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> <u>ELISA:</u> Behring EIA Boehringer EIA Dako EIA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
				Genzyme Virotech EIA IBL, EIA Milenia EIA <u>Western blot:</u> Genzyme Virotech WB MRL WB			
Grodzicki 1988 ¹⁴⁵	n=30 Early Lyme disease Age: not reported	n=20 Healthy controls	Immunoblot	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Immunoblot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Time point: acute phase samples taken within 31 days of onset of EM, convalescence samples taken 2-4 weeks later
Hanrahan 1984 ¹⁶¹	n=207 Lyme disease Age (mean): 28 years (1-79)	n=329 Healthy controls	IFA	<i>IgG</i> IFA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis Based on: EM, aseptic meningitis, facial nerve palsy, or large joint arthritis	
Hansen 1988 ¹⁶⁴	n=54 Lymphocytic	Serum (n=315): Healthy controls	ELISA	IgM and IgG Sonic extract ELISA	Serum CSF	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	meningoradiculitis following Lyme disease Age (median): 51 years (6-74)	(n=200) Aseptic meningitis (n=11) Guillain-Barré (n=14) Encephalitis (n=13) Syphilis (n=55) Leptospirosis (n=22) CSF (n=106) Aseptic meningitis (n=11) Guillain-Barré (n=14) Encephalitis (n=13) Neurosyphilis (n=14) People undergoing myelography (n=54)		Flagellum ELISA			
Hansen 1989 ¹⁶²	n=157 EM (n=107)	n=200 Healthy	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Sonic extract ELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	ACA (n=50) Age (median): EM: 54 years (6-83) ACA: 61 years (28-89)	controls		Flagellum ELISA		Plus histopathology for ACA	
Hansen 1991 ¹⁶⁷	n=198 EM (n=50) Neuroborreliosis (n=100) ACA (n=48) Age (median): EM: 45 years (6-71) Neuroborreliosis: 47 years (5-74) ACA: 54 years (17-80)	n=200 Healthy controls	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Indirect ELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Hansen 1991a ¹⁶⁵	n=100 Neuroborreliosis: second-stage lymphocytic meningoradiculitis (n=91), third-stage chronic progressive encephalomyelitis (n=9) Age: not reported	n=29 Multiple sclerosis (n=17), Guillain-Barré syndrome (n=8), neurosyphilis (n=4)	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA	CSF Serum	Clinical diagnosis, lymphocytic pleocytosis, elevated protein concentration	Time point: pre-treatment samples 4 days to 6 years (median 26 days) after onset of neurological symptoms
Hernandez-Novoa 2003 ¹⁷⁷	n=42 Localised (EM, n=24) Disseminated (disseminated EM or	n=129 Healthy controls (n=53)	Immunoblot	<i>IgM and IgG</i> BAG- <i>Borrelia</i> Blot Germany	Serum	Clinical diagnosis CDC definition	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	neuroborreliosis, n=18) Age: not reported	Other infectious diseases (n=76)					
Hunfeld 2002 ¹⁸²	n=226 EM (n=148) Neuroborreliosis (n=35) ACA and Lyme arthritis (n=43) Age: not reported	n=1107 Healthy blood donors	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA Biotest, Germany	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Jaulhac 1996 ¹⁸⁶	n=12 Lyme arthritis All persons had been bitten by ticks and had an EM Previous positive serological result (n=10), seronegative result with recent acute monoarthritis within 1 month of a typical EM (n=2) Age (mean): 44 years (7-71)	n=29	PCR	N/A	Synovia	Clinical diagnosis CDC definition of Lyme arthritis or objective joint swelling in 1 or a few large joints following a recent well-documented EM	
Johnson 1996 ¹⁹⁰	n=111 EM (n=58) Early neurologic (n=3) Lyme arthritis (n=36)	n=113 Healthy blood donors	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> FLA-ELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Late neurologic (n=14) Age: not reported						
Jovicic 2003 ¹⁹⁴	n=94 EM (n=40) Tick bite (n=40) Lyme carditis (n=4) Neuroborreliosis or Lyme arthritis (n=50) Age: not reported	n=120 Healthy blood donors (n=80), syphilis or rheumatoid arthritis or SLE (n=40)	ELISA IF IB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA IF Immunoblot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Time point: 31 samples collected 2-6 weeks and 9 samples collected 2-6 months after tick bite
Kaiser 1998 ¹⁹⁹	n=67 Neuroborreliosis Age: not reported	n=14 Syphilis	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA	CSF Serum	Clinical diagnosis CSF pleocytosis IgM/IgG serum diagnostic	Leukos pro microliter in CSF (median): Acute neuroborreliosis: 246 (7-600) Chronic neuroborreliosis: 60 (10-135)
Kaiser 1999 ²⁰⁰	n=96 Neuroborreliosis Age: not reported	n=80 Healthy controls	EIA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> EIA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Leukos pro microliter in CSF (median): Acute neuroborreliosis: 172 (7-600) Chronic neuroborreliosis: 60 (10-135) Total protein in

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
							CSF mg/L (median): Acute neuroborreliosis: 1,300 (460-3600) Chronic neuroborreliosis: 2,700 (500-7,500)
Karlsson 1989 ²⁰⁴	n=68 Neuroborreliosis Age (median): 46 years (6-73)	n=44 Non- <i>Borrelia</i> meningitis or encephalitis	ELISA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA Western blot	CSF Serum	Clinical diagnosis Pleocytosis or neurological signs and symptoms with an EM	
Karlsson 1989a ²⁰²	n=77 EM (n=30) Neuroborreliosis (n=37) ACA (n=10) Age: not reported	n=73 Non- <i>Borrelia</i> meningitis (n=35) MS (n=8) Syphilis (n=10) EBV (n=10) RA-positive (n=10)	ELISA Capture assay	<i>IgM</i> ELISA (indirect and capture)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis neuroborreliosis: plus pleocytosis in CSF	Time point: EM: up until 2 months after onset of EM neuroborreliosis: up until 11 months after onset of neurological symptoms ACA: up until 20 years after onset of symptoms
Klempner	n=21	n=10	Western	IgG	Serum	Clinical	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
2001 ²⁰⁷	Acute Lyme disease Age: not reported	Healthy persons	blot or Immunoblot	MarDX Diagnostics, USA		diagnosis based on CDC criteria	
Lahey 2015 ²¹⁵	n=84 Early Lyme disease (n=79) Late Lyme disease (n=5) Age: not reported	n=26 Healthy controls	EIA	VisE/prpC10 EIA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Lange 1992 ²²¹	n=36 EM Age: not reported	n=100 Blood donors	ELISA IB	<i>IgM</i> Flagellum ELISA (Dako) IgM Sonicate ELISA (Virimmun) IgM Immunoblot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Lawrenz 1999 ²²⁵	n=81 EM (n=41) Acute neuroborreliosis (n=17) LA (23) Age: not reported	n=50 None Lyme disease	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> VisE ELISA Whole-cell ELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis (People with EM were culture confirmed)	
Lebech 1992 ²²⁸	n=10 Neuroborreliosis	n=50 Healthy controls	PCR	PCR	CSF Urine	Clinical diagnosis	Previous neuroborreliosis group not included in

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Age: 41.5 years (SD 24)	(n=25) Urinary tract infections (n=10) Multiple sclerosis (n=5) Central nervous system infections (n=10)					diagnostic accuracy calculation
Lebech 1998 ²²⁶	n=150 Early neuroborreliosis (n=148) Chronic neuroborreliosis (n=2)	n=70 Other neurologic diseases without clinical suspicion of Lyme disease	PCR	PCR	CSF	Clinical diagnosis	
Lebech 2000 ²²⁹	n=61 EM (n=31) Neuroborreliosis (n=30)	n=33 Healthy controls (n=7) Other neurological diseases (n=20) High-dose antibiotic treatment	PCR	PCR	Skin biopsy CSF	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
		for other infectious diseases (n=6)					
Ledue 2008 ²³¹	n=60 Early localised (EM, n=19) Early disseminated (Multiple EM, arthritis, arthralgia, abdominal pain, generalised lymphadenopathy, CNS involvement, n=41)	n=807 Healthy donors (n=600) Other infectious diseases (n=196) LYMERix vaccine (n=11)	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> C6 <i>B burgdorferi</i> ELISA kit Bio-Tek Instruments, USA LIAISON VIsE DiaSorin, USA	Serum	Culture	
Lencakova 2008 ²³⁶	n=74 Skin manifestations (n=54) Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=7) LA (n=13) Age: not reported	n=60 Healthy persons (n=40) Rheumatoid factor (n=10) Fever (n=10)	ELISA IF IB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Whole cell lysate ELISA (IgM and IgG) IF (IgM and IgG) Recombinant line Immunoblot (IgM and IgG)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Leung 1989 ²³⁸	n=10 Lyme disease Age: not reported	n=29 Syphilis (n=14) Infectious mononucleosis (n=4)	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Colorimetric ELISA (Lyme STAT Test Kit Whittaker Bioproducts) FASTLYME	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Liebling 1993 ²⁴¹	n=44 Lyme disease Age: not reported	Rheumatoid factor (n=11) n=47 Other inflammatory, autoimmune or infectious diseases	PCR	PCR	Serum CSF Synovial fluid Urine	Clinical diagnosis	
Liu 2013 ²⁴⁷	n=159 EM (n=52) Neuroborreliosis (n=65) ACA (n=28) Lyme arthritis (n=14) Age: not reported	n=292 Healthy blood donors (n=105) Syphilis (n=58) Leptospirosis (n=75) RA (n=54)	ELISA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA Western blot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Magnarelli 1988 ²⁶⁷	n=102 EM plus later manifestations Age: not reported	n=77 Syphilis (n=15) Yaws (n=8) Louse-borne relapsing	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
		fever (n=11) Tick-borne relapsing fever (n=8) Leptospirosis (n=12) Rocky Mountain spotted fever (n=16) RA (=7)					
Magnarelli 1992 ²⁷²	n=53 EM with antibodies (n=17) EM without antibodies (n=36) Age: not reported	n=40 Healthy persons	ELISA	<i>IgG</i> Unabsorbed standard ELISA with whole cells Unabsorbed standard ELISA with p41-G Biotin streptavidin amplified ELISA whole cells Biotin streptavidin amplified ELISA p41-G	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Marangoni 2005 ²⁸¹	n=45 EM Age: 42.8 years (29-65)	n=234 Healthy blood donors	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> RecomWell <i>Borrelia</i> test (Mikrogen; IgG and IgM) Enzygnost Borreliosis (DADE Behring; IgG and	Serum	Culture	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
				IgM) Quick ELISA C6 <i>Borrelia</i> assay (Immunetics)			
Marangoni 2008 ²⁷⁹	n=66 EM Age: 45.3 years (mean)	n=300 Blood bank Bologna	CLIA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> <i>ELISA:</i> Enzygnost Lyme link VlsE/IgG Enzygnost Borreliosis IgM Enzygnost system <i>CLIA:</i> LIAISON <i>Borrelia</i> system LIAISON <i>Borrelia</i> IgG LIAISON <i>Borrelia</i> IgM	Serum	Culture-confirmed EM	
Mathiesen 1996 ²⁸⁸	n=117 EM (n=47) Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=60) ACA (n=20) Age: not reported	n=100 Blood donors	ELISA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA (IgG and IgM) Western blot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis (EM was culture confirmed)	Disease duration (median): EM: 3 weeks (<1 week to 1 year) Lyme neuroborreliosis: 3 weeks (1 week to 1.5 years after onset of

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
							neurological symptoms) ACA: 4 years (8 months to 10 years)
Merljak Skocir 2008 ²⁹⁷	n=50 EM Age: not reported	n=50 Blood donors	Western blot	<i>IgG and IgM</i> Euroline-western blot (Euroimmun)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Mitchell 1994 ³⁰²	n=51 EM Age (range): 2-76 years	n=16 Healthy subjects	IF EIA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> IgM indirect fluorescent antibody test IgG-IgM fluorescence EIA (3M Diagnostics) P39 EIA (General Biometrics)	Serum	Culture	
Molins 2014 ³⁰⁸	n=124 Early Lyme disease with EM acute phase (n=40) Early Lyme disease with EM convalescent phase (n=38) Early disseminated Lyme carditis (n=7) Early disseminated neuroborreliosis (n=10) Late Lyme disease, LA	n=203 Healthy persons	EIA WB Culture PCR	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Whole cell sonicate EIA (VIDAS Lyme IgM and IgG Polyvalent assay, bioMerieux) IgM and IgG western blots (MarDx Diagnostics) Culture	Serum Blood Skin Heart tissue	Clinical diagnosis	Standard CDC algorithm used for ELISA (IgM and IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM and IgG) – IgG used only after 1 month

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	(29)			PCR			
Molins 2015 ³⁰⁴	n=202 Early Lyme disease Age: 9-83 years	n=158 Healthy endemic (n=64) Healthy nonendemic (94)	EIA CLIA Immunoblot	<i>IgM and IgG</i> <u>CLIA:</u> VIDAS Lyme IgM and IgG assay (bioMerieux) <u>ELISA:</u> C6 EIA (Immunetics) <u>Western blot:</u> IgM and IgG immunoblots (MarDx Diagnostics)	Serum	At least 1 EM present in initial clinic visit or clinical diagnosis (majority had positive culture/PCR test)	
Molins 2016 ³⁰⁷	n=124 Acute and convalescent stage (n=78) Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=10) Lyme carditis (n=7) LA (n=29) Age: not reported	n=203 Healthy donors	EIA IB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> <u>ELISA:</u> C6 <i>B. burgdorferi</i> Lyme ELISA (Immunetics) <u>Western blot:</u> Marblot IgM and IgG immunoblot assays (MarDx Diagnostics) <i>Borrelia</i> ViraStripe IgM and IgG assay (plus VIsE on the IgG immunoblot; ViraMed, Biotech AG)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Densitometer reading taken over visual reading for VIDAS/ViraStripe combination
Molins 2017 ³⁰⁵	n=124 Acute EM (n=40), convalescent EM (n=38),	n=203 Healthy controls	ELISA	<i>IgM/IgG</i> VIDAS Lyme (IgM/IgG), bioMerieux,	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Neuroborreliosis (n=10), Lyme carditis (n=7), Lyme arthritis (n=29) Age: not reported			USA			
Moter 1994 ³¹³	n=22 EM (n=10) ACA (n=12) Age: not reported	n=4 Normal skin	PCR	PCR	Skin biopsy	Clinical diagnosis	1 person sampled twice 2 people did not have reference standard (tick bites) – data not included in analysis
Nocton 1994 ³³³	n=127 LA Age (mean): Test positive: 29 (8-67) Test negative: 38 (3-62)	n=69 Other forms of arthritis	PCR	PCR	Synovial fluid	Clinical diagnosis (criteria: brief intermittent attacks of oligoarticular arthritis, exposure in an area of endemic disease, elevated antibody response to <i>B. burgdorferi</i> on ELISA and exclusion of other known	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Nocton 1996 ³³²	n=60 Lyme neuroborreliosis Age: Test positive: 41 (10-76) Test negative: 40 (8-81)	n=42 Seronegative with no history of Lyme disease (n=22) Evaluated for possible herpes simplex virus encephalitis (n=20)	PCR	PCR	CSF	forms of arthritis) Clinical diagnosis	
Nohlmans 1994 ³³⁴	n=44 Early Lyme disease (EM, n=13) Late Lyme disease (arthralgia, arthritis, ACA, n=21) Age: not reported	n=84 Healthy controls	EIA IFA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Dako EIA Diamedix EIA Whittaker EIA Diagast EIA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Oksi 1995 ³⁴⁴	n=41 Late Lyme disease Age: 37.6 years (4-76)	n=37 Healthy controls	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> In house sonicate antigen ELISA (IgM, IgG, or both) 41-kDa flagellin ELISA	Serum	Diagnosis based on clinical symptoms and positive culture or PCR	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
				(IgM, IgG, or both; DAKO) Recombinant P39 protein ELISA (ImmunoWell)			
Padula 1994 ³⁴⁹	n=74 EM	n=76 Healthy individuals (n=70) Severe periodontitis (n=6)	ELISA IB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Whole cell ELISA (IgM and IgG) rOspC ELISA (IgM) IgM and IgG immunoblot assays	Serum	Culture	
Panelius 2001 ³⁵⁵	n=28 Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=14) LA (n=14) Age: not reported	n=23 Syphilis (n=10) Healthy donors (n=13)	ELISA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> IgG and IgM Western blot with rFlaA antigen IgG and IgM rFlaA ELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis (based on CDC guidelines)	
Panelius 2008 ³⁵⁶	n=102 EM (n=25) Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=67) ACA (n=10) Age: not reported	n=40 Blood donors (n=20) CSF samples from healthy individuals (n=20)	ELISA IB	Recombinant IgG OspE ELISA	Serum CSF	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Peltomaa 2004 ³⁶⁴	n=47 Lyme facial paralysis	n=86 Healthy subjects	Western blot	IgM and IgG Western blot (MarDx)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis (based on CDC criteria)	
Phillips 1998 ³⁷¹	n=47 Lyme disease and had failed or relapsed after extended oral and intravenous antibiotic therapy Age: median 35 years (4-74)	n=23 Chronic illnesses other than Lyme disease	Culture	Culture	Blood	Clinical diagnosis	
Pomelova 2015 ³⁸²	n=146 EM	n=197 Blood donors	ELISA	C6 Lyme ELISA Kit (Immunitics; IgM/IgG)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Porwancher 2011 ³⁸³	n=242 Culture-proven early acute Lyme (n=79) Early convalescent-phase (n=78) Culture-proven EM (n=4) Stage-II and III Lyme (n=47) Sera from people receiving treatment (PTLDS, n=34) Age: not reported	n=794 Healthy blood donors from New Mexico (n=300) Healthy blood donors from New England (n=300) People undergoing	WB ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> MarDX IgM and IgG WB MarDx Diagnostics Inc., USA	Serum	Culture (only n=83) Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
		routine screening (n=99) EBV (n=20) Toxoplasmosis (n=10) RA (n=10) ANA-positive (n=10) Leptospirosis (n=10) Syphilis (n=10) Rubella (n=10) Other conditions (n=15)					
Priem 1997 ³⁸⁴	n=22 Lyme neuroborreliosis Age (mean, neuroborreliosis only): 44 (7-82)	n=58 Rheumatic diseases (n=37) Central nervous system diseases (n=21)	PCR	PCR	CSF	Clinical diagnosis	
Rauer 1995 ³⁹²	n=210 EM (n=118) Lyme neuroborreliosis	n=82 No current symptoms/h	ELISA	P83-ELISA (IgM and IgG)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	(n=33) LA (n=17) ACA (n=42) Age: not reported	istory of Lyme disease					
Rauer 1998 ³⁹³	n=104 EM Age: not reported	n=154 Healthy controls	ELISA	IgM ELISA OspC-14-kDa antigen ELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Roux 2007 ⁴⁰⁶	n=11 Lyme meningoradiculitis Age (mean): 62 years (SD 15)	n=16 Consecutive people referred for suspected Lyme meningoradiculitis	ELISA EIA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> VIDAS ELISA (IgM and IgG together) Dade-Behring enzyme immunoassay (EIA Enzygnost Borreliosis) IgM and IgG separately In-house IgG immunoblot (western blot)	Serum CSF	Clinical diagnosis	Median CRP: 4 mg/L (3-228) Pleocytosis of an average of 120 elements (range 9-380) Protein levels in CSF (mean): 0.84 g/L (0.4-1.53)
Russell 1984 ⁴⁰⁹	n=45 Lyme disease	n=100 Well persons	ELISA IF	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA IFA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Ruzic-Sabljić 2002 ⁴¹¹	n=117 EM	n=96 Healthy persons	IF WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> In-house indirect IF test (IgG and IgM)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Age: not reported			Western blot (Mikrogen; IgG and IgM)			
Sapi 2013 ⁴¹⁶	n=72 Lyme disease Age (mean, range): 42 years (3-80)	n=48 Healthy persons	Culture	Culture	Blood	Clinical diagnosis	
Schnarr 2001 ⁴²²	n=16 Lyme arthritis Age: not reported	n=31 Rheumatoid arthritis	PCR	PCR	Synovial fluid	Clinical diagnosis	
Schulte-Spechtel 2004 ⁴²³ [Schulte-Spechtel 2003 ⁴²⁴]	n=36 Neuroborreliosis Age: not reported	n=67 Blood donors (n=49) Syphilis (n=10) Rheumatoid factor (n=8)	Immunoblot	<i>IgG</i> New recombinant immunoblot Old recombinant immunoblot Whole cell lysate immunoblot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Schwartz 1992 ⁴³¹	n=35 Untreated EM Age: not reported	n=10 Undergoing plastic surgery	PCR	PCR	Skin biopsy	Clinical diagnosis	Treated EM and rashes of uncertain aetiology not included in the analysis
Senel 2010 ⁴³³	n=37	n=89	CXCL13	ELISA (Quantikine, R&D Systems) for detection of	CSF	Clinical diagnosis	CSF/serum albumin

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Definite neuroborreliosis (n=28) Systemic borreliosis (n=9) Age: 58 years (32-70)	CNS bacterial infections (n=16) Viral CNS diseases (n=18) Guillain-Barré syndrome (n=11) Bell's palsy (n=19) Other cranial nerve palsies (n=5) Cephalgia (n=20)		CXCL13			concentration ratio for neuroborreliosis: (x10 ⁻³): 13.8 (9.7-23.3)
Sillanpaa 2007 ⁴³⁹	n=70 European people: EM (n=42) neuroborreliosis (n=14) LA (n=14)	n=83 Syphilis (n=10) Rheumatoid factor (n=8) Anti-streptolysin antibodies (n=13) EBV (n=11) Anti-nuclear	ELISA	IgG Quick ELISA C6 (Immunetics)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
		antibodies (n=12) Salmonella (n=5) Yersinia enterocolitica (n=4) Healthy blood donors (n=20)					
Sivak 1996 ⁴⁴³	n=44 EM Age: not reported	n=272 Asymptomatic healthy controls	Immunoblot	<i>IgM</i> Immunoblot assay MarDx Diagnostics, USA	Serum	Culture	
Smismans 2006 ⁴⁴⁸	n=45 Early localised cutaneous (n=23) Early disseminated (n=22): arthritis (n=2), cranial neuritis (n=9), radiculoneuropathy (n=3), EM with dissemination (n=7), polyneuropathy (n1) Age: not reported	n=40 Epstein-Barr virus (n=10) Acute cytomegalovirus (n=10) Syphilis (n=10) Rheumatoid factor positivity (n=10)	Immunoassays	<i>IgM and IgG</i> QuickEL-ISA C6 <i>Borrelia</i> kit (Immunetics) IDEIA <i>B. burgdorferi</i> IgM IDEIA <i>B. burgdorferi</i> IgG (Dako) <i>B. burgdorferi</i> second-generation IgM <i>B. burgdorferi</i> second-generation IgG (Serion)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Stanek 1999 ⁴⁵⁵	n=99	n=100	EIA	In-house EIA (IgG and	Serum	Clinical	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	EM Age: Female: (n=55): median 49 years (10-80) Male (n=44): median 51 (18-77)	Blood donors		IgM)		diagnosis	
Steere 2008 ⁴⁵⁸	n=134 EM (n=76) Acute neurologic or cardiac involvement (n=13) Arthritis or chronic neurologic involvement (n=31) Post-Lyme disease symptoms (n=14)	n=136 Healthy subjects	ELISA	<i>IgG and IgM</i> Sonicate ELISA VIsE C6 peptide ELISA	Serum	EM: CDC criteria and culture-positive	Only people with EM received reference standard Positive 2-tier serology required for case inclusion of neurologic, cardiac or joint involvement
Stiernstedt 1986 ⁴⁶³ [Stiernstedt 1985 ⁴⁶²]	n=26 EM Age (median): 38 years (18-66)	n=63 (for IFA) n=120 (for ELISA)	ELISA IF	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA IF	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Median time from onset: 5 weeks (3 days to 18 weeks) WBC count >10x10 ⁹ /L: n=1 (4%) ESR >20 mm/h: n=6 (24%)
Stricker 2001 ⁴⁶⁶	n=83	n=22	CD57	CD57	Not	Clinical	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	<p>Acute Lyme disease (n=10) Chronic Lyme disease (n=73)</p> <p>Age (mean): Acute Lyme disease: Male: 36 (13-52) Female: 43 (37-50) Chronic Lyme disease: Male: 45 (14-71) Female: 43 (15-76)</p>	People with AIDS			reported	diagnosis (based on CDC criteria)	
Tjernberg 2007 ⁴⁷⁵	<p>n=273</p> <p>EM (n=158) neuroborreliosis (n=26) Acrodermatitis (n=9) Lyme arthritis (n=3) Possible Lyme disease (n=31)</p> <p>Age (median): 54.5 years (4-85)</p>	<p>n=200</p> <p>Blood donors</p>	ELISA CLIA	<p><i>IgM and IgG</i></p> <p>Quick ELISA C6 <i>Borrelia</i> assay kit (Immunetics)</p> <p>Virotech <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> ELISA (IgG/IgM test kit (Genzyme Virotech)</p> <p>LIAISON <i>Borrelia</i> IgM IgG CLIA</p>	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Tjernberg 2009 ⁴⁷⁷	<p>n=148</p> <p>EM</p> <p>Age: median 58 years (7-84)</p>	<p>n=200</p> <p>Blood donors</p>	ELISA	C6 ELISA (Immunetics)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Trevejo 2001 ⁴⁸¹	n=74 EM Acute phase (n=66) Convalescent phase (n=55) Age: median 41 years (3-83)	n=38 Healthy controls	EIA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Vidas bioMerieux, France Marblot MarDx Diagnostics, USA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Simplified approach – only equivocal results on ELISA were tested by Immunoblot Acute phase sera taken a median of 4 days after illness onset (range 0-19); convalescent sera taken a median of 36 days after illness onset (range 21-161)
van Burgel 2011 ⁴⁹²	n=95 Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=59) Lyme borreliosis (n=36) Age (mean, SD): Lyme neuroborreliosis: 39 years (SD 24) LB: 51 years (SD 17)	n=143 Infectious meningitis/encephalitis (n=69) Neurological controls (n=74)	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> C6 Lyme ELISA kit (Immunitics)	Serum CSF	Lyme neuroborreliosis: 4 of the following 5 criteria: detection of <i>B. burgdorferi</i> antibodies in serum, CSF pleocytosis, absence of other evident cause of meningitis,	Reference standard for people with Lyme disease not reported CSF Leukos (per microliter; mean): Neuroborreliosis: 135 (SD 159) LB: 1 (SD 1)

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
						evidence of intrathecal production of specific <i>B. burgdorferi</i> antibodies, objective neurological complaints with favourable outcome after treatment	
van der Heijden 1999 ⁴⁹³	n=4 Lyme arthritis Age (median): 28 years (17-38)	n=9 Other arthritis forms	PCR	PCR	Synovial fluid and tissue	Clinical diagnosis	Time point: median disease duration 9 months (4-60)
Vasiliiu 1998 ⁴⁹⁴	n=20 LA Age (mean): 39.2 years (SD 13.2)	n=10 Rheumatic diseases	PCR	PCR	Synovial fluid	Clinical diagnosis	
von Baehr 2012 ⁴⁹⁷	n=94 EM (n=28) Acute mono-arthritis (n=14) Bannwarth's syndrome (n=6) Migrating arthralgias	n=208 Blood donors (n=120) Autoimmune diseases	Lymphocyte transformation test	Lymphocyte transformation test	Venous blood	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	(n=34) Facial palsy (n=5) Acute neuroborreliosis (n=7)	(n=40) Seropositive clinically healthy outdoor workers (n=48)					
von Stedingk 1995 ⁴⁹⁸	n=62 EM (n=26) ACA (n=36) Age: not reported	n=76 Skin removed during plastic surgery (n=67) Volunteers among medical staff (n=5) Non- <i>Borrelial</i> disorders (n=4)	PCR	PCR assay	Skin biopsy	Clinical diagnosis	76 skin samples from 10 control subjects Duration of EM at time of biopsy: median 2 weeks (2 days – 10 months) Duration of ACA lesions at time of biopsy: median 1.5 years (3 months – over 10 years)
Widhe 2004 ⁵¹⁰	n=56 Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=39) EM (n=12) ACA (n=5) Age: not reported	n=23 Healthy blood donors	ELISA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> ELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Wilske 1993 ⁵¹⁷	n=134 EM (n=31) Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=60) Late Lyme disease: LA (n=24) ACA (n=19) Age: not reported	n=142 Blood donors (n=100) Antibodies against T. pallidum (n=20) Antibodies against Epstein-Barr virus (n=12) Rheumatoid factor (n=10)	IF ELISA IB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Indirect immunofluorescence absorption test (IgG and IgM) OGP-ELISA (IgG and IgM) FLA-ELISA (IgG and IgM) Recombinant immunoblot (IgG) Recombinant immunoblot (IgM)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Wilske 1999 ⁵¹⁹	n=147 EM (n=66) Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=42) Acrodermatitis (n=29) LA (n=10) Age: not reported	n=139 Blood donors (n=118) Syphilis (n=11) Rheumatoid factor (n=10)	Immunoblot	<i>IgG</i> Whole cell lysate immunoblot Old Recombinant immunoblot (p83/100, p39, OspC, p41i) New Recombinant immunoblot (Osp17, p58; IgG)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Table 3: Summary of included cross-sectional studies (adults)

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Bil-Lula 2015 ²⁴	n=577 Age (median): 45 years (20-65)	<i>Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato</i> infection	PCR ELISA WB	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Real Time 7000 PCR System v 1.1 Life Technologies, USA Anti- <i>Borrelia</i> plus Vlse ELISA (IgG) Anti- <i>Borrelia</i> ELISA (IgM) Euroimmun, Poland Western blot (confirmatory test: only ELISA-positive results tested) Euroline <i>Borrelia</i> -RN-AT test Euroimmun, Poland	Serum	CDC recommendation: clinical diagnosis (erythema migrans, palsy of facial nerve or arthritis), medical history, assessment of risk exposure, diagnostic tests including the assessment of antibodies to <i>Borrelia</i> spp class IgM and IgG	PCR used as reference standard Borderline results included as positive
Blaauw 1999 ²⁷	n=105 Diagnosed or suspected chronic Lyme with musculoskeletal complaints Age (mean): 48.7 years (6-82)	Lyme disease	ELISA	<i>IgG</i> ELISA Dako, Denmark	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Included in unspecified Lyme disease forest plot as people exhibited a variety of different signs and symptoms Previous Lyme disease not

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
							included in the analysis as there was no reference standard
Brunner 2001 ³⁹	n=169 People evaluated for Lyme disease at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center; CDC prevention collection Age: not reported	Lyme disease	ELISA Western blot/Immunoblot	<i>IgM and IgG</i> MarDX ELISA (IgM/IgG) CDC flagellin-enriched ELISA MarDX Diagnostics, USA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis: active Lyme disease (present or previous EM plus early or late dissemination), previous Lyme disease (successfully treated with antibiotics)	
Gyllemark 2017 ¹⁵⁴	n=165 Definite Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=49), possible neuroborreliosis (n=28), non-neuroborreliosis (n=88) Age, median (range): Definite neuroborreliosis: 32 years (4-72) Possible	Neuroborreliosis	CXCL13	CXCL13	CSF	Definite neuroborreliosis: CSF pleocytosis and <i>Borrelia</i> -specific antibodies in CSF Possible neuroborreliosis: symptoms strongly	Duration of symptoms (median, range): Definite neuroborreliosis: 2 weeks (0.1-104) Possible neuroborreliosis with pleocytosis: 0.5 weeks (0.1-3.0) Possible neuroborreliosis

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	neuroborreliosis with pleocytosis: 8.5 years (3-39) Possible neuroborreliosis without pleocytosis: 62 years (32-82) Non- neuroborreliosis: 23 years (1-83)					suggestive of neuroborreliosis, short duration of symptoms and CSF pleocytosis but not <i>Borrelia</i> -specific antibodies in CSF Possible neuroborreliosis: <i>Borrelia</i> -specific antibodies in CSF, but no pleocytosis and symptoms were less suggestive of neuroborreliosis	with AI: 2.0 weeks (0.1-156) Non-neuroborreliosis: 4.0 weeks (0.1-520) Possible neuroborreliosis without pleocytosis not included in analysis
Henningsson 2014 ¹⁷⁵	n=175 Definite neuroborreliosis (n=52) Possible neuroborreliosis (n=4)	Neuroborreliosis	EIA	<i>IgM and IgG</i> IDEIA Lyme neuroborreliosis VIDAS IgG	CSF Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Non-Lyme neuroborreliosis people with pleocytosis for other reasons were used as the control group

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	<p>Healthy blood donors (n=90) Pleocytosis for other reasons (n=29)</p> <p>Age (median): Definite neuroborreliosis: 39 years (3-85) Possible neuroborreliosis: 30 years (4-49)</p>			<p>bioMerieux, France</p> <p>recomBead <i>Borrelia</i> IgM and IgG assay Mikrogen, Germany</p>			<p>in the analysis</p> <p>Equivocal results regarded as positive by the authors</p>
Henningsson 2016 ¹⁷⁶	<p>n=135</p> <p>Definite Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=35), possible neuroborreliosis (n=43), non-neuroborreliosis (n=83)</p> <p>Age (median, range): Definite neuroborreliosis: 38 years (3-72) Possible neuroborreliosis with pleocytosis: 21 years (3-55) Possible neuroborreliosis with AI: 64 years (50-81)</p>	Neuroborreliosis	CXCL13	<p>CXCL13 Quantikine ELISA, R&D Systems, USA</p> <p>CXCL13 RecomBead, Mikrogen, Germany</p>	CSF	<p>Definite Lyme neuroborreliosis: according to European guidelines</p> <p>Possible Lyme neuroborreliosis: Clinical diagnosis based on CSF pleocytosis and neurological symptoms strongly suggestive</p>	<p>Duration of symptoms (median, range): Definite neuroborreliosis: 14 days (2-730) Possible neuroborreliosis with pleocytosis: 5 days (1-28) Possible neuroborreliosis with AI: 294 days (21-730) Non-neuroborreliosis: 28 days (1-3650)</p> <p>Possible neuroborreliosis with AI not</p>

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Non-neuroborreliosis: 39 years (1-83)					of neuroborreliosis but normal AI Possible Lyme neuroborreliosis: based on elevated <i>Borrelia</i> -specific AI but no CSF pleocytosis	included in analysis
Ljostad 2008 ²⁵³	n=59 Definite neuroborreliosis (n=37) Probable neuroborreliosis (n=7) Not neuroborreliosis (n=8) >18 years	Neuroborreliosis	CXCL13	ELISA (Quantikine, R&D Systems) for detection of CXCL13	CSF	Clinical diagnosis based on criteria: New neurological symptoms & objective findings suggestive of neuroborreliosis Lymphocytic pleocytosis (>5 leucocytes/mm ³) Intrathecal <i>Borrelia</i> antibody	

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Nordberg 2012 ³³⁵	n=117 Suspected neuroborreliosis Age (median): 58 years (6-87)	Neuroborreliosis	ELISPOT	IFN-gamma ELISPOT	CSF	production Clinical diagnosis plus CSF lymphocytic pleocytosis ≥ 5 mononuclear leucocytes per μL and intrathecal production of specific anti- <i>Borrelia</i> IgG antibodies	
Tjernberg 2011 ⁴⁷⁴	n=261 People examined for suspected Lyme neuroborreliosis Age (range) 2-87 years	Lyme neuroborreliosis	ELISA CXCL13	CXCL13 measured by ELISA (Quantikine, R&D Systems) IgG and IgM C6 Lyme ELISA kit (Immunestics)	CSF Serum	European Federation of Neurological Societies guidelines	Samples had been stored for 3-6 years

Table 4: Summary of included case-control studies (children)

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Gerber 1995 ¹²⁹	n=82 EM Age (median): 6 years (1-18)	n=50	ELISA IB	IgM WC ELISA rOspC ELISA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Time point: samples collected 0-30 days after EM was first detected

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Children			Immunoblot			
Heikkilä 2002 ¹⁷²	n=52 Lyme arthritis Children	n=40	ELISA	IgG ELISA Boehringer Mannheim, Germany	Serum	Clinical diagnosis Plus: Neuroborrelio sis and LA: ELISA positive EM: PCR confirmed	
Krbkova 2016 ²¹¹	n=116 Proven neuroborreliosis (n=86) Suspicion of neuroborreliosis (n=30) Children	n=66 Other neuroinfections	ELISA WB	IgM and IgG EIA <i>Borrelia garinii</i> Testline, Czech Republic Updated ELISA Testline, Czech Republic Western blot EUROIMMUN Germany	CSF Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Suspicion of neuroborreliosis not included in analysis because there is no clear reference standard
Skogman 2008 ⁴⁴⁶	n=24 Children with confirmed neuroborreliosis (n=24)	n=36 Children with other neurological diseases (n=20) Adults with no proven infection (n=16)	ELISA	IgG ELISA Antigen panel (DbpA, BBK32, OspC, IR6) Positive if ≥2, negative if ≤1	Serum CSF	Clinical diagnosis (based on clinical features and lab findings)	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Wutte 2011 ⁵³²	n=22 Definite neuroborreliosis Children (n=15), adults (n=7)	n=300 Healthy blood donors	CXCL13	CXCL13 ELISA Quantikine, Germany	Serum	Clinical diagnosis German Neurological Society guidelines	15 children, 7 adults Time point: mean duration of illness was 3 days (1-7) CSF leukos (median, range): Definite neuroborreliosis: 116 (4-501) Blood donors: not done Probable neuroborreliosis: 70 (20-267) Seropos controls: 3 (0-174) Seroneg controls: 51 (1-624) Other diagnoses: 4 (0-213)

Table 5: Summary of included cross-sectional studies (children)

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Avery 2006 ¹⁶	n=108	Lyme meningitis	PCR	PCR	CSF	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Meningitis and suspected Lyme disease (defined as both Lyme serology and Lyme CSF-PCR ordered by physician) Children					(EM) plus positive serology	
Barstad 2017 ¹⁸	n=210 Neuroborreliosis or other possible causes of aseptic meningitis were suspected based on symptoms identified by attending physician and if a lumbar puncture and a Bb Ab in the CSF were ordered for clinical reasons Children	Neuroborreliosis	CXCL13	CXCL13	CSF	Clinical diagnosis	Children who had antibiotics prior to admission were excluded Trained physician assessing samples was blinded to all other variables Youden index performed to determine best cut-off values for CXCL13
Bennet 2008 ²¹	n=267 Children	Neuroborreliosis	ELISA	IgM and IgG IDEIA <i>B burgdorferi</i> IgG and IgM Oxoid td, UK IDEIA Lyme neuroborreliosis Oxoid Ltd, UK	CSF Serum	Clinical assessment Based on history, presenting symptoms, clinical examinations, CSF and	Unclear if samples taken before beginning of antibiotic treatment

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Lipsett 2016 ²⁴³	n=944 Children and adolescents undergoing serologic evaluation for Lyme disease Age (median and IQR): 10.9 (6.4-15.2) years	Lyme disease	EIA Immunoblot	Whole cell sonicate Lyme EIA (MarDx; Trinity Biotech) C6 Lyme EIA test (Immunetics)	Serum	serum analyses, response to antibiotic treatment Clinician-diagnosed EM or a positive 2-tiered serologic result in the presence of a Lyme disease-associated clinical syndrome	Unclear what proportion of the Lyme disease people were clinically diagnosed versus seropositive and Lyme disease associated syndrome

Table 6: Additional data that could not be included in the forest plots (Tumani 1995⁴⁸⁵)

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Tests	Results	Comments
Tumani 1995 ⁴⁸⁵	n=24 Acute neuroborreliosis (25% recalled a tick bite) No reference standard Age: not reported	n=73 Disease controls (n=45) Healthy controls (n=28)	Bb-IgM-AI Bb-IgG-AI All CSF values 3 out of 4 CSF values	Sensitivity: 0.79 Specificity: 0.96 Sensitivity: 0.63 Specificity: 0.89 Sensitivity: 0.70 Specificity: 0.98 Sensitivity: 0.80 Specificity: 0.98	CSF values (lymphocytic pleocytosis, activated B-cells with IgM predominance in CSF, intrathecal humoral immune response with IgM predominance, blood-CSF barrier dysfunction)

See appendix D for full evidence tables.

1 **1.3.4 Quality assessment of clinical studies included in the evidence review**

2 **Table 7: Clinical evidence summary: initial tests for Lyme disease (adults, cross-sectional studies)**

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
<u>Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Henningsson 2014 (recomBead; serum)	81	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.87 [0.74-0.94]	0.76 [0.56-0.90]
Henningsson 2014 (VIDAS; serum)	81	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.92 [0.81-0.98]	0.72 [0.53-0.87]
<u>Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgG) – antibody index</u>				
Henningsson 2014 (VIDAS; CSF/serum)	81	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.87 [0.74-0.94]	0.93 [0.77-0.99]
<u>Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) – antibody index</u>				
Henningsson 2014 (IDEIA; CSF/serum)	81	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.92 [0.81-0.98]	0.97 [0.82-1.00]
Henningsson 2014 (recomBead; CSF/serum)	81	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.93-1.00]	0.90 [0.73-0.98]
<u>Neuroborreliosis: ELISA C6</u>				
Tjernberg 2011 (CSF)	216	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness	0.94 [0.89-0.98]	0.98 [0.92-1.00]
<u>Neuroborreliosis: ELISPOT</u>				
Nordberg 2012 (cut-off 10 spots or more; CSF)	117	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.21 [0.05-0.51]	0.92 [0.85-0.97]
Nordberg 2012 (cut-off 5 spots or more; CSF)	117	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.36 [0.13-0.65]	0.82 [0.73-0.89]
<u>Neuroborreliosis: CXCL13</u>				
Gyllemark 2017 (cut-off >142 pg/ml; CSF)	151	LOW ¹	0.84 [0.73-0.92]	0.99 [0.94-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Gyllemark 2017 (cut-off >250 pg/ml; CSF)	151	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.81 [0.69-0.90]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Henningsson 2016 (Quantikine; CSF)	126	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.91 [0.78-0.97]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Henningsson 2016 (RecomBead; CSF)	126	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.93 [0.81-0.99]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Ljostad 2008 (CSF)	45	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.91-1.00]	0.63 [0.24-0.91]
Tjernberg 2011 (CSF)	216	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness	0.98 [0.94-1.00]	0.98 [0.92-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM)				
Bil-Lula 2015 (serum)	577	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.33 [0.13-0.59]	0.71 [0.67-0.75]
Brunner 2001 (CDC; serum)	37	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.78 [0.40-0.97]	0.43 [0.24-0.63]
Brunner 2001 (RWJM; serum)	131	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.66 [0.53-0.77]	0.76 [0.64-0.86]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA (IgG)				
Bil-Lula 2015 (serum)	577	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.39 [0.17-0.64]	0.61 [0.56-0.65]
Blaauw 1999 (serum)	54	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.69-1.00]	0.73 [0.57-0.85]
Brunner 2001 (CDC; serum)	37	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.78 [0.40-0.97]	0.57 [0.37-0.76]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Brunner (RWJM; serum)	131	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.45-0.70]	0.87 [0.76-0.94]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM/IgG)				
Brunner 2001 (CDC; serum)	38	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.66-1.00]	0.17 [0.06-0.36]
Unspecified Lyme disease: Immunoblot (IgM)				
Bil-Lula 2015 (serum)	577	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.22 [0.06-0.48]	0.84 [0.81-0.87]
Brunner 2001 (CDC; serum)	38	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.56 [0.21-0.86]	0.62 [0.42-0.79]
Brunner 2001 (RWJM; serum)	131	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.45-0.70]	0.84 [0.73-0.92]
Unspecified Lyme disease: Immunoblot (IgG)				
Bil-Lula 2015 (serum)	577	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.61 [0.36-0.83]	0.45 [0.41-0.49]
Brunner 2001 (CDC; serum)	38	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.89 [0.52-1.00]	0.59 [0.39-0.76]
Brunner 2001 (RWJM; serum)	131	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.44 [0.31-0.57]	0.93 [0.83-0.98]

- 1) Risk of bias was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies were rated at high risk of bias and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies were rated at very high risk of bias.
- 2) Indirectness was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist items referring to applicability. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies are seriously indirect, and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies are very seriously indirect.
- 3) Imprecision was assessed based on inspection of the confidence interval of sensitivity in the individual study. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment when there was a 20-40% range of the confidence interval around the point estimate and downgraded by 2 increments when there was a range of >40%.
- 4) Inconsistency could not be assessed, as the committee was unable to set a sensitivity threshold as an acceptable level to recommend a test. This was due to the lack of a good reference standard and the fact that studies, populations, tests and conditions were very heterogeneous.

Table 8: Clinical evidence summary: initial tests for Lyme disease (adults, case-control studies)

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
<u>Erythema migrans: ELISA (IgM):</u>				
Ang 2015 (Diacheck; serum)	28	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.25]	1.00 [0.78-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Enzygnost; serum)	188	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.14 [0.07-0.23]	0.91 [0.83-0.95]
Ang 2015 (Euroimmun; serum)	15	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.52]	1.00 [0.69-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Liaison; serum)	284	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.09 [0.03-0.19]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Ang 2015 (Medac; serum)	123	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.13 [0.04-0.30]	0.99 [0.94-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	20	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.52]	1.00 [0.78-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Serion; serum)	142	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.33-0.67]	0.73 [0.63-0.81]
Ang 2015 (Virotech; serum)	27	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.08 [0.00-0.36]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Asbrink 1985 (before treatment; serum)	273	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.11 [0.06-0.20]	0.95 [0.91-0.98]
Bacon 2003 (acute EM; rVIsE; serum)	292	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.09 [0.02-0.23]	0.98 [0.96-0.99]
Bacon 2003 (acute EM; serum)	292	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.20 [0.08-0.37]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (convalescent EM; rVIsE; serum)	314	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.42 [0.29-0.56]	0.98 [0.96-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Bacon 2003 (convalescent EM; serum)	314	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.40 [0.28-0.54]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.40 [0.19-0.64]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Christova 2003 (serum)	195	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.49 [0.39-0.59]	0.93 [0.86-0.98]
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	45	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.61 [0.36-0.83]	0.85 [0.66-0.96]
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	45	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.39 [0.17-0.64]	0.70 [0.50-0.86]
Fung 1994 (acute disseminated; serum)	165	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.61 [0.47-0.73]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Fung 1994 (acute localised; serum)	122	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.25 [0.07-0.52]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Fung 1994 (convalescent disseminated; serum)	165	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.80 [0.67-0.89]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Fung 1994 (convalescent localised; serum)	122	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.50 [0.25-0.75]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (Behring; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.77 [0.56-0.91]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (Boehringer; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.35 [0.17-0.56]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (Dako; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.65 [0.44-0.83]	0.95 [0.87-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Goossens 2000 (Genzyme Virotech; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.81 [0.61-0.93]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (IBL; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.65 [0.44-0.83]	0.90 [0.80-0.96]
Hansen 1989 (flagellum; multiple; serum)	216	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.69 [0.41-0.89]	0.95 [0.91-0.98]
Hansen 1989 (flagellum; serum)	307	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.45 [0.35-0.55]	0.95 [0.91-0.98]
Hansen 1989 (flagellum; single; serum)	291	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.40 [0.29-0.50]	0.95 [0.91-0.98]
Hansen 1989 (sonic; serum)	307	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.17 [0.10-0.25]	0.94 [0.90-0.97]
Hansen 1991 (serum)	250	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.64 [0.49-0.77]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hernandez-Novoa 2003 (localised; serum)	153	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.19-0.59]	0.95 [0.89-0.98]
Hunfeld 2002 (serum)	1255	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.61 [0.53-0.69]	0.92 [0.90-0.94]
Karlsson 1989a (capture ELISA; serum)	103	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.33 [0.17-0.53]	0.97 [0.90-1.00]
Karlsson 1989a (indirect ELISA; serum)	103	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.27 [0.12-0.46]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]
Lange 1992 (flagellum; serum)	136	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.33 [0.19-0.51]	0.94 [0.87-0.98]
Lange 1992 (sonicated; serum)	136	VERY LOW ¹	0.28 [0.14-0.45]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	114	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.63 [0.49-0.76]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Liu 2013 (serum)	344	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.43-0.71]	0.80 [0.75-0.85]
Magnarelli 1988 (serum)	179	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.84 [0.76-0.91]	0.58 [0.47-0.70]
Marangoni 2005 (Enzygnost; serum)	329	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.71 [0.60-0.79]	0.96 [0.93-0.98]
Marangoni 2005 (RecomWell; serum)	329	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.56 [0.45-0.66]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Marangoni 2008 (serum)	366	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.55 [0.42-0.67]	0.97 [0.94-0.98]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	147	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.40 [0.26-0.56]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Molins 2017 (acute; serum)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.60 [0.43-0.75]	0.89 [0.83-0.93]
Molins 2017 (convalescent; serum)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.79 [0.63-0.90]	0.89 [0.83-0.93]
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	200	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.06 [0.02-0.12]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Rauer 1998 (recombinant; serum)	258	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.36-0.56]	0.95 [0.90-0.98]
Rauer 1998 (whole-cell; serum)	258	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.45 [0.35-0.55]	0.95 [0.90-0.98]
Smismans 2006 (purified; serum)	63	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.61 [0.39-0.80]	0.78 [0.62-0.89]
Smismans 2006 (synthetic C6; serum)	63	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.91 [0.72-0.99]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Smismans 2006 (whole-cell; serum)	63	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.91 [0.72-0.99]	0.53 [0.36-0.68]
Stanek 1999 (serum)	199	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.05 [0.02-0.11]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Stiernstedt 1986 (serum)	25	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.08 [0.01-0.26]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Widhe 2004 (serum)	28	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.80 [0.28-0.99]	1.00 [0.85-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (flagellin; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.39 [0.22-0.58]	0.96 [0.91-0.98]
Wilske 1993 (OGP-ELISA; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.45 [0.27-0.64]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Erythema migrans: ELISA (IgG)				
Asbrink 1985 (before treatment; serum)	273	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.18 [0.11-0.28]	0.95 [0.91-0.98]
Bacon 2003 (acute EM; rVIsE; serum)	292	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.20 [0.08-0.37]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (acute EM; serum)	292	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.26-0.61]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (convalescent EM; rVIsE; serum)	314	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.44 [0.31-0.58]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (convalescent EM; serum)	314	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.44-0.71]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.65 [0.41-0.85]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Christova 2003 (serum)	195	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.17 [0.10-0.26]	0.97 [0.91-0.99]
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	45	VERY LOW ^{1,3}	0.11 [0.01-0.35]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision		
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	45	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.33 [0.13-0.59]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]
Fung 1994 (acute disseminated; serum)	165	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.34 [0.22-0.47]	0.86 [0.78-0.92]
Fung 1994 (acute localised; serum)	122	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.31 [0.11-0.59]	0.86 [0.78-0.92]
Fung 1994 (convalescent disseminated; serum)	165	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.51 [0.37-0.64]	0.86 [0.78-0.92]
Fung 1994 (convalescent localised; serum)	122	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.44 [0.20-0.70]	0.86 [0.78-0.92]
Goossens 2000 (Behring; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.69 [0.48-0.86]	0.85 [0.74-0.93]
Goossens 2000 (Boehringer; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.20-0.59]	0.89 [0.78-0.95]
Goossens 2000 (Dako; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.50 [0.30-0.70]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (Genzyme Virotech; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.54 [0.33-0.73]	0.94 [0.84-0.98]
Goossens 2000 (IBL; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.27-0.67]	0.87 [0.76-0.94]
Hansen 1989 (flagellum; multiple; serum)	216	VERY LOW ^{1,3}	0.38 [0.15-0.65]	0.96 [0.92-0.98]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision		
Hansen 1989 (flagellum; serum)	307	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.36 [0.27-0.45]	0.96 [0.92-0.98]
Hansen 1989 (flagellum; single; serum)	291	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.36 [0.26-0.47]	0.96 [0.92-0.98]
Hansen 1989 (sonic; serum)	307	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.11 [0.06-0.19]	0.94 [0.90-0.97]
Hansen 1991 (serum)	250	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.56 [0.41-0.70]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hernandez-Novoa 2003 (localised; serum)	153	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.21 [0.07-0.42]	0.57 [0.48-0.66]
Hunfeld 2002 (serum)	1255	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.22 [0.16-0.30]	0.95 [0.93-0.96]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	114	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.29-0.57]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Liu 2013 (serum)	344	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.79 [0.65-0.89]	0.77 [0.72-0.82]
Magnarelli 1988 (serum)	172	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.77 [0.67-0.85]	0.78 [0.67-0.87]
Magnarelli 1992 (biotin; recombinant; serum)	93	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.36 [0.23-0.50]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Magnarelli 1992 (biotin; whole-cell; serum)	93	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.38 [0.25-0.52]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Magnarelli 1992 (unabsorbed; recombinant; serum)	93	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.34 [0.22-0.48]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Magnarelli 1992 (unabsorbed; whole-cell; serum)	93	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.32 [0.20-0.46]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Marangoni 2005 (Enzygnost; serum)	329	VERY LOW ¹	0.37 [0.27-0.47]	0.88 [0.84-0.92]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Marangoni 2005 (RecomWell; serum)	329	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.47-0.68]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Marangoni 2008 (serum)	366	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.56 [0.43-0.68]	0.98 [0.96-0.99]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	147	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.30 [0.17-0.45]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2017 (acute; serum)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.34-0.66]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Molins 2017 (convalescent; serum)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.74 [0.57-0.87]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Nohlmans 1994 (Dako; serum)	97	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.62 [0.32-0.86]	0.99 [0.94-1.00]
Nohlmans 1994 (Diagast; serum)	97	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Panelius 2008 (acute; serum)	45	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.60 [0.39-0.79]	1.00 [0.83-1.00]
Panelius 2008 (convalescent; serum)	45	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.64 [0.43-0.82]	1.00 [0.83-1.00]
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	200	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.14 [0.08-0.21]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Sillanpaa 2007 (acute; serum)	125	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.60 [0.43-0.74]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Sillanpaa 2007 (convalescent; serum)	105	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.41 [0.21-0.64]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Smismans 2006 (purified; serum)	52	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.42 [0.15-0.72]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Smismans 2006 (synthetic C6; serum)	52	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.62-1.00]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]
Smismans 2006 (whole-cell; serum)	52	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.83 [0.52-0.98]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]
Stanek 1999 (serum)	199	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.24 [0.16-0.34]	0.95 [0.89-0.98]
Stiernstedt 1986 (serum)	25	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.20 [0.07-0.41]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Widhe 2004 (serum)	28	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.20 [0.01-0.72]	1.00 [0.85-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (flagellin; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.39 [0.22-0.58]	0.94 [0.88-0.97]
Wilske 1993 (OGP-ELISA; serum)	173	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.35 [0.19-0.55]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Erythema migrans: ELISA (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015 (Diacheck; serum)	28	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.92 [0.94-1.00]	0.93 [0.68-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Enzygnost; serum)	188	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.95 [0.88-0.99]	0.88 [0.80-0.93]
Ang 2015 (Euroimmun; serum)	19	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.80 [0.28-0.99]	0.86 [0.57-0.98]
Ang 2015 (Liaison; serum)	284	VERY LOW ¹	0.91 [0.81-0.97]	0.92 [0.87-0.95]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Ang 2015 (Medac; serum)	123	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.81 [0.63-0.93]	0.97 [0.91-0.99]
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	20	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.48-1.00]	1.00 [0.78-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Serion; serum)	142	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.83 [0.67-0.94]	0.72 [0.62-0.80]
Ang 2015 (Virotech; serum)	27	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.75-1.00]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Branda 2010 (acute; serum)	301	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.34-0.53]	0.96 [0.92-0.98]
Branda 2010 (convalescent; serum)	301	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.92 [0.84-0.96]	0.96 [0.92-0.98]
Branda 2011 (serum)	1414	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.56 [0.47-0.65]	0.98 [0.98-0.99]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.75 [0.51-0.91]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Branda 2013 (USA; C6; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.70 [0.46-0.88]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.70 [0.46-0.88]	0.97 [0.91-0.99]
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	45	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.67 [0.41-0.87]	0.85 [0.66-0.96]
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	45	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.72 [0.47-0.90]	0.70 [0.50-0.86]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Fung 1994 (acute disseminated; serum)	165	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.61 [0.40-0.73]	0.85 [0.77-0.91]
Fung 1994 (acute localised; serum)	122	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.15-0.65]	0.85 [0.77-0.91]
Fung 1994 (convalescent disseminated; serum)	165	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.81 [0.69-0.90]	0.85 [0.77-0.91]
Fung 1994 (convalescent localised; serum)	122	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.63 [0.35-0.85]	0.85 [0.77-0.91]
Goossens 2000 (Milenia; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.31 [0.14-0.52]	0.95 [0.87-0.99]
Grodzicki 1988 (acute; serum)	50	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.30 [0.15-0.49]	1.00 [0.83-1.00]
Grodzicki 1988 (convalescent; serum)	50	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.60 [0.41-0.77]	1.00 [0.83-1.00]
Hernandez-Novoa 2003 (localised; serum)	24	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.50 [0.29-0.71]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Hunfeld 2002 (serum)	148	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.59-0.75]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Johnson 1996 (serum)	171	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.47 [0.33-0.60]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Lahey 2015 (serum)	105	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.52 [0.40-0.63]	0.96 [0.80-1.00]
Lawrenz 1999 (recombinant; serum)	91	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.63 [0.47-0.78]	0.98 [0.89-1.00]
Lawrenz 1999 (whole-cell; serum)	91	VERY LOW ¹	0.61 [0.45-0.76]	0.94 [0.83-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Ledue 2008 (serum)	826	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.58 [0.33-0.80]	0.98 [0.97-0.99]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	114	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.89 [0.77-0.96]	0.97 [0.88-1.00]
Leung 1989 (colorimetric; serum)	39	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.70 [0.35-0.93]	0.45 [0.26-0.64]
Leung 1989 (sonicated; serum)	39	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	0.76 [0.56-0.90]
Marangoni 2005 (Enzygnost; serum)	329	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.78 [0.68-0.86]	0.85 [0.79-0.89]
Marangoni 2005 (Quick C6; serum)	329	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.62 [0.52-0.72]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Marangoni 2005 (RecomWell; serum)	329	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.74 [0.64-0.82]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Mitchell 1994 (multiple EM; serum)	48	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.00 [0.00-0.11]	1.00 [0.79-1.00]
Mitchell 1994 (single EM; serum)	35	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.05 [0.00-0.26]	1.00 [0.79-1.00]
Molins 2014 (acute; serum)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.51-0.81]	0.93 [0.89-0.96]
Molins 2014 (convalescent; serum)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.89 [0.75-0.97]	0.93 [0.89-0.96]
Molins 2016 (acute; serum)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.57 [0.41-0.73]	0.98 [0.94-0.99]
Molins 2016 (convalescent; serum)	241	VERY LOW ¹	0.84 [0.69-0.94]	0.98 [0.94-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Nohlmans 1994 (Diamedix; serum)	97	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.54 [0.25-0.81]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Nohlmans 1994 (Whittaker; serum)	97	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.31 [0.09-0.61]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Pomelova 2015 (serum)	324	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.31 [0.24-0.40]	0.51 [0.44-0.58]
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	200	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.20 [0.13-0.29]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Russell 1984 (serum)	134	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.32-0.68]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Smismans 2006 (purified; serum)	63	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.78 [0.56-0.93]	0.78 [0.62-0.89]
Smismans 2006 (synthetic C6; serum)	63	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.91 [0.72-0.99]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]
Smismans 2006 (whole-cell; serum)	63	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.85-1.00]	0.50 [0.34-0.66]
Steere 2008 (acute; multiple EM; serum)	176	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.38 [0.23-0.54]	0.96 [0.92-0.99]
Steere 2008 (acute; single EM; serum)	172	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.19 [0.08-0.36]	0.96 [0.92-0.99]
Steere 2008 (convalescent; multiple EM; serum)	176	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.63 [0.46-0.77]	0.96 [0.92-0.99]
Steere 2008 (convalescent; single EM; serum)	172	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.47 [0.30-0.65]	0.96 [0.92-0.99]
Stiernstedt 1986 (serum)	145	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.28 [0.12-0.49]	0.91 [0.84-0.95]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Tjernberg 2007 (Quick C6; serum)	358	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.37 [0.29-0.45]	0.08 [0.05-0.13]
Tjernberg 2007 (Virotech; serum)	358	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.38-0.54]	0.24 [0.18-0.31]
Tjernberg 2009 (cut-off 0.0689; serum)	319	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.66 [0.57-0.73]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Tjernberg 2009 (cut-off 0.15; serum)	319	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.51 [0.43-0.60]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Trevejo 2001 (acute; serum)	103	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.42 [0.30-0.55]	0.97 [0.86-1.00]
Trevejo 2001 (convalescent; serum)	92	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.78 [0.65-0.88]	0.97 [0.86-1.00]
<u>Erythema migrans: ELISA C6</u>				
Cinco 2006 (serum)	78	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.63 [0.49-0.76]	1.00 [0.86-1.00]
<u>Erythema migrans: ELISA C6 (IgA)</u>				
D'Arco 2017 (IgA; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.30 [0.23-0.39]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
<u>Erythema migrans: ELFA</u>				
Flisiak 1996 (serum)	45	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.61 [0.36-0.83]	0.93 [0.76-0.99]
Mitchell 1994 (multiple EM; serum)	48	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.56 [0.38-0.74]	1.00 [0.79-1.00]
Mitchell 1994 (single EM; serum)	35	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.26 [0.09-0.51]	1.00 [0.79-1.00]
<u>Erythema migrans: CLIA (IgM)</u>				
Marangoni 2008 (serum)	366	VERY LOW ¹	0.24 [0.15-0.36]	0.94 [0.90-0.96]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Erythema migrans: CLIA (IgG)				
Marangoni 2008 (serum)	366	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.39 [0.28-0.52]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Erythema migrans: CLIA (IgM/IgG)				
Ledue 2008 (serum)	826	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.68 [0.43-0.87]	0.98 [0.97-0.99]
Tjernberg 2007 (serum)	358	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.42 [0.34-0.50]	0.19 [0.14-0.25]
Erythema migrans: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)				
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	187	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.22 [0.13-0.32]	0.97 [0.92-0.99]
Branda 2010 (acute; serum)	301	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.30 [0.22-0.40]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Branda 2010 (convalescent; serum)	301	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.60 [0.50-0.70]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.35 [0.15-0.59]	0.91 [0.84-0.96]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.10 [0.01-0.32]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Dressler 1993 (retrospective; acute; serum)	150	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.40 [0.21-0.61]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Dressler 1993 (retrospective; conval.; serum)	150	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.60 [0.39-0.79]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Fung 1994 (acute; serum)	181	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.59 [0.47-0.70]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Fung 1994 (convalescent; serum)	181	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.73 [0.62-0.83]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot; serum)	125	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.73 [0.45-0.92]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot plus; serum)	125	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.87 [0.60-0.98]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (WB; serum)	125	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.40 [0.16-0.68]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (Genzyme Virotech; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.50 [0.30-0.70]	0.89 [0.78-0.95]
Goossens 2000 (MRL; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.27-0.67]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Lange 1992 (serum)	136	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.81 [0.64-0.92]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.61 [0.47-0.74]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Liu 2013 (serum)	344	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.32-0.61]	0.94 [0.91-1.00]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	147	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.36 [0.23-0.51]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Merljak Skocir 2008 (serum)	51	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.16 [0.05-0.36]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]
Molins 2014 (acute; serum)	243	VERY LOW ¹	0.35 [0.21-0.52]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Molins 2014 (convalescent; serum)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.53 [0.36-0.69]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Molins 2016 (acute; serum)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.53 [0.36-0.68]	0.94 [0.90-0.97]
Molins 2016 (convalescent; serum)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.76 [0.60-0.89]	0.94 [0.90-0.97]
Porwancher 2011 (early acute; serum)	79	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.37 [0.26-0.48]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Porwancher 2011 (early convalescent; serum)	82	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.73 [0.62-0.82]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Ruzic-Sabljić 2002 (culture: positive versus negative; serum)	117	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.37-0.63]	0.55 [0.40-0.69]
Ruzic-Sabljić 2002 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.48 [0.39-0.57]	0.78 [0.69-0.86]
Sivak 1996 (acute EM; serum)	316	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.25 [0.13-0.40]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Sivak 1996 (convalescent EM; serum)	316	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.70 [0.55-0.83]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Sivak 1996 (EM over 7 days; serum)	316	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.82 [0.67-0.92]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Wilske 1993 (OspC-blot; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.45 [0.27-0.64]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Wilske 1993 (p100-blot; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.10 [0.02-0.26]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (p41/i-blot; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.10 [0.02-0.26]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Erythema migrans: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)				
Branda 2010 (acute; serum)	301	VERY LOW ¹	0.06 [0.02-0.12]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Branda 2010 (convalescent; serum)	301	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.11 [0.06-0.19]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.35 [0.15-0.59]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	115	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.10 [0.01-0.32]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Dressler 1993 (retrospective (acute; serum)	150	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.00 [0.00-0.14]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Dressler 1993 (retrospective; conval.; serum)	150	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.16 [0.05-0.36]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Fung 1994 (acute; serum)	181	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.47 [0.35-0.59]	0.94 [0.88-0.98]
Fung 1994 (convalescent; serum)	181	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.57 [0.45-0.69]	0.94 [0.88-0.98]
Goettner 2005 (line blot; serum)	125	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.47 [0.21-0.73]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot plus; serum)	125	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.53 [0.27-0.79]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (WB; serum)	125	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.33 [0.12-0.62]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (Genzyme Virotech; serum)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.27 [0.12-0.48]	0.82 [0.70-0.91]
Goossens 2000 (MRL; serum)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.00-0.20]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	114	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.54 [0.40-0.67]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Liu 2013 (serum)	344	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.67 [0.53-0.80]	0.98 [0.96-0.99]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	147	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.26 [0.14-0.40]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Merljak Skocir 2008 (serum)	51	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.32 [0.15-0.54]	0.73 [0.52-0.88]
Molins 2014 (acute; serum)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.20 [0.09-0.36]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2014 (convalescent; serum)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.37 [0.22-0.54]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (acute; serum)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.13 [0.04-0.27]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (convalescent; serum)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.29 [0.15-0.46]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Porwancher 2011 (early acute; serum)	79	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.08 [0.03-0.16]	Cannot be estimates ⁵
Porwancher 2011 (early convalescent; serum)	82	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.21 [0.13-0.31]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Ruzic-Sabljić 2002 (culture: positive versus negative; serum)	117	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.30 [0.20-0.43]	0.69 [0.54-0.81]
Ruzic-Sabljić 2002 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.31 [0.23-0.40]	0.73 [0.63-0.81]
Wilske 1993 (OspC-blot; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.10 [0.02-0.26]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (p100-blot; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.23 [0.10-0.41]	0.94 [0.88-0.97]
Wilske 1993 (p41/i-blot; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹	0.06 [0.01-0.21]	0.96 [0.91-0.98]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Wilske 1999 (recombinant - new; serum)	205	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.11 [0.04-0.21]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Wilske 1999 (recombinant - old; serum)	205	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.05 [0.01-0.13]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Wilske 1999 (whole-cell; serum)	205	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.33 [0.22-0.46]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Erythema migrans: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	187	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.80 [0.69-0.88]	0.92 [0.85-0.97]
Branda 2010 (acute; serum)	301	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.34 [0.25-0.44]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Branda 2010 (convalescent; serum)	301	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.66 [0.56-0.75]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.55 [0.32-0.77]	0.91 [0.84-0.96]
Branda 2013 (US; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.20 [0.06-0.44]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Callister 2002 (multiple EM; serum)	46	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.83 [0.52-0.98]	0.91 [0.76-0.98]
Callister 2002 (single EM; serum)	56	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.55 [0.32-0.76]	0.91 [0.76-0.98]
Fung 1994 (acute; serum)	181	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.65 [0.53-0.76]	0.92 [0.86-0.97]
Fung 1994 (convalescent; serum)	181	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.80 [0.69-0.88]	0.92 [0.86-0.97]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	114	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.93 [0.82-0.98]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Molins 2014 (acute; serum)	221	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.81-1.00]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Molins 2014 (convalescent; serum)	252	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.55 [0.40-0.69]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Molins 2016 (acute; serum)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.55 [0.38-0.71]	0.93 [0.88-0.96]
Molins 2016 (convalescent; serum)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.79 [0.63-0.90]	0.93 [0.88-0.96]
Porwancher 2011 (early acute; serum)	529	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.39 [0.28-0.51]	0.95 [0.93-0.97]
Porwancher 2011 (early convalescent; serum)	532	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.77 [0.66-0.85]	0.95 [0.93-0.97]
Trevejo 2001 (acute; serum)	104	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.38 [0.26-0.51]	0.97 [0.86-1.00]
Trevejo 2001 (convalescent; serum)	94	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.30 [0.19-0.44]	0.97 [0.86-1.00]
Erythema migrans: IFA (IgM)				
Cerar 2006 (serum)	125	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.01-0.11]	1.00 [0.93-1.00]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	114	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.37 [0.24-0.51]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Mitchell 1994 (multiple EM; serum)	48	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.89-1.00]	1.00 [0.79-1.00]
Mitchell 1994 (single EM; serum)	35	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.42 [0.20-0.67]	1.00 [0.79-1.00]
Ruzic-Sabljić 2002 (culture: positive versus negative; serum)	117	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.00 [0.00-0.05]	0.96 [0.87-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Ruzic-Sabljić 2002 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.02 [0.00-0.06]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (IFA-ABS; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.32 [0.17-0.51]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
<u>Erythema migrans: IFA (IgG)</u>				
Cerar 2006 (serum)	125	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.33 [0.23-0.45]	0.82 [0.68-0.91]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	114	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.44 [0.31-0.59]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Ruzic-Sabljić 2002 (culture: positive versus negative; serum)	117	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.02 [0.00-0.08]	0.96 [0.87-1.00]
Ruzic-Sabljić 2002 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.03 [0.01-0.07]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (IFA-ABS; serum)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.45 [0.27-0.64]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
<u>Erythema migrans: IFA (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	114	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.67 [0.53-0.79]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Russell 1984 (serum)	134	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.32-0.68]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Erythema migrans: IFA</u>				
Stiernstedt 1986 (serum)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.12 [0.03-0.31]	0.95 [0.87-0.99]
<u>Erythema migrans: PCR</u>				
Lebech 2000 (skin)	69	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.71 [0.52-0.86]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Molins 2014 (blood and skin)	39	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.62 [0.45-0.77]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Moter 1994 (skin)	14	VERY LOW ^{1,3}	0.80 [0.44-0.97]	1.00 [0.40-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision		
Schwartz 1992 (skin)	45	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.57 [0.39-0.74]	0.90 [0.55-1.00]
von Stedingk 1995 (skin)	102	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.69 [0.48-0.86]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]
<u>Erythema migrans: Culture</u>				
Molins 2014 (blood and skin)	39	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.44 [0.28-0.60]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
<u>Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgM)</u>				
Ang 2015 (Diacheck; serum)	20	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.52]	1.00 [0.78-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Enzygnost; serum)	157	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.10 [0.03-0.22]	0.91 [0.83-0.95]
Ang 2015 (Euroimmun; serum)	15	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.97]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Liaison; serum)	281	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.00 [0.00-0.07]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Ang 2015 (Medac; serum)	117	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.00-0.20]	0.99 [0.94-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	16	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.97]	1.00 [0.78-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Serion; serum)	132	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.20-0.59]	0.73 [0.63-0.81]
Ang 2015 (Virotech; serum)	19	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.00 [0.00-0.52]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		very serious imprecision		
Bacon 2003 (conval. neurologic; rVIsE; serum)	268	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.55 [0.23-0.83]	0.98 [0.96-0.99]
Bacon 2003 (conval. neurologic; serum)	268	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.36 [0.11-0.69]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (early neurologic; rVIsE; serum)	272	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.73 [0.45-0.92]	0.98 [0.96-0.99]
Bacon 2003 (early neurologic; serum)	272	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.53 [0.27-0.79]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (late neurologic; rVIsE; serum)	268	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.09 [0.00-0.41]	0.98 [0.96-0.99]
Bacon 2003 (late neurologic; serum)	268	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.18 [0.02-0.52]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.80 [0.52-0.96]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Cerar 2010 (CSF)	66	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.21 [0.09-0.38]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Cerar 2010 (serum)	66	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.47 [0.30-0.65]	0.97 [0.84-1.00]
Dessau 2010 (serum)	932	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.55 [0.45-0.64]	0.97 [0.95-0.98]
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	44	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.71 [0.44-0.90]	0.85 [0.66-0.96]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	44	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.71 [0.44-0.90]	0.70 [0.50-0.86]
Fung 1994 (chronic neuroborreliosis; serum)	131	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.20 [0.07-0.41]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Fung 1994 (meningitis/facial palsy; serum)	146	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.72 [0.56-0.85]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Hansen 1991 (serum)	300	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.37 [0.28-0.47]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hunfeld 2002 (serum)	1142	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.74 [0.57-0.88]	0.92 [0.90-0.94]
Kaiser 1998 (recombinant; CSF)	81	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.42 [0.30-0.54]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Kaiser 1998 (recombinant; serum)	81	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.79 [0.67-0.88]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Kaiser 1998 (sonicated; CSF)	81	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.07 [0.02-0.17]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Kaiser 1998 (sonicated; serum)	81	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.31-0.56]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Kaiser 1999 (recombinant; serum)	176	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.84 [0.76-0.91]	0.93 [0.84-0.97]
Kaiser 1999 (whole-cell; serum)	176	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.53 [0.43-0.63]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]
Karlsson 1989 (CSF)	112	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.57 [0.45-0.69]	0.98 [0.88-1.00]
Karlsson 1989 (serum)	112	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.34 [0.23-0.46]	0.98 [0.88-1.00]
Karlsson 1989a (capture ELISA; serum)	110	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.54 [0.37-0.71]	0.97 [0.90-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Karlsson 1989a (indirect ELISA; serum)	110	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.38 [0.22-0.55]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.43 [0.10-0.82]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Liu 2013 (serum)	357	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.62 [0.49-0.73]	0.80 [0.75-0.85]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	150	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.66 [0.51-0.79]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Molins 2017 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.69-1.00]	0.89 [0.83-0.93]
Panelius 2001 (serum)	19	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.58 [0.33-0.80]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	115	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.00 [0.00-0.11]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Roux 2007 (serum)	27	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.64 [0.31-0.89]	0.94 [0.70-1.00]
Widhe 2004 (serum)	51	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.39 [0.22-0.59]	1.00 [0.85-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (flagellin; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.37-0.63]	0.96 [0.91-0.98]
Wilske 1993 (OGP-ELISA; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.62 [0.48-0.74]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgG)				
Bacon 2003 (conval. neurologic; rVlsE; serum)	268	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.64 [0.31-0.89]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Bacon 2003 (conval. neurologic; serum)	268	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.64 [0.31-0.89]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (early neurologic; rVIsE; serum)	272	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.78-1.00]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (early neurologic; serum)	272	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.60 [0.32-0.84]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (late neurologic; rVIsE; serum)	268	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.72-1.00]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (late neurologic; serum)	268	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.73 [0.39-0.94]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.87 [0.60-0.98]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Cerar 2010 (CSF)	66	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.41 [0.25-0.59]	0.97 [0.84-1.00]
Cerar 2010 (serum)	66	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.71 [0.53-0.85]	0.50 [0.32-0.68]
Dessau 2010 (serum)	932	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.44 [0.34-0.53]	0.98 [0.97-0.99]
Dressler 1993 (prospective; serum)	168	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.59 [0.39-0.76]	0.96 [0.92-0.99]
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	44	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.35 [0.14-0.62]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	44	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.29 [0.10-0.56]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Fung 1994 (chronic neuroborreliosis; serum)	131	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.36 [0.18-0.57]	0.86 [0.78-0.92]
Fung 1994 (meningitis/facial palsy; serum)	146	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.65 [0.48-0.79]	0.86 [0.78-0.92]
Hansen 1991 (serum)	300	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.84 [0.75-0.91]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hunfeld 2002 (serum)	1,142	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.51 [0.34-0.69]	0.95 [0.93-0.96]
Kaiser 1998 (recombinant; CSF)	81	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.46-0.70]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Kaiser 1998 (recombinant; serum)	81	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.64 [0.52-0.76]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Kaiser 1998 (sonicated; CSF)	81	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.31 [0.21-0.44]	0.29 [0.08-0.58]
Kaiser 1998 (sonicated; serum)	81	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.93 [0.83-0.98]	0.29 [0.08-0.58]
Kaiser 1999 (recombinant; serum)	176	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.80 [0.71-0.88]	0.82 [0.72-0.90]
Kaiser 1999 (whole-cell; serum)	176	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.78 [0.69-0.86]	0.00 [0.00-0.05]
Karlsson 1989 (CSF)	112	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.57 [0.45-0.69]	0.95 [0.85-0.99]
Karlsson 1989 (serum)	112	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.38 [0.27-0.51]	0.93 [0.81-0.99]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.57 [0.18-0.90]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Liu 2013 (serum)	357	VERY LOW ¹	0.85 [0.74-0.92]	0.77 [0.72-0.82]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	150	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.42 [0.28-0.57]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2017 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Panelius 2001 (serum)	19	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.74 [0.49-0.91]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Panelius 2008 (CSF)	72	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.37 [0.24-0.51]	1.00 [0.83-1.00]
Panelius 2008 (serum)	87	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.84 [0.73-0.92]	1.00 [0.83-1.00]
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.33 [0.18-0.52]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Roux 2007 (CSF)	27	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.91 [0.59-1.00]	0.75 [0.48-0.93]
Roux 2007 (serum)	27	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.64 [0.31-0.99]	0.63 [0.35-0.85]
Sillanpaa 2007 (serum)	97	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Widhe 2004 (serum)	52	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.79 [0.60-0.92]	1.00 [0.85-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (flagellin; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.75 [0.62-0.85]	0.94 [0.88-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (OGP-ELISA; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.45 [0.32-0.58]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015 (Diacheck; serum)	20	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.80 [0.28-0.99]	0.93 [0.68-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Enzygnost; serum)	157	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.98 [0.89-1.00]	0.88 [0.80-0.93]
Ang 2015 (Euroimmun; serum)	15	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.03-1.00]	0.86 [0.57-0.98]
Ang 2015 (Liaison; serum)	281	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.93-1.00]	0.92 [0.87-0.95]
Ang 2015 (Medac; serum)	117	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.86-1.00]	0.97 [0.91-0.99]
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	16	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.03-1.00]	1.00 [0.78-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Serion; serum)	132	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.92 [0.75-0.99]	0.72 [0.62-0.80]
Ang 2015 (Virotech; serum)	19	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.48-1.00]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.78-1.00]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Branda 2013 (USA; C6; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.87 [0.60-0.98]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.87 [0.60-0.98]	0.97 [0.91-0.99]
Coyle 1993 (CSF)	111	VERY LOW ^{1,2}	0.49 [0.38-0.61]	0.97 [0.85-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias, serious indirectness		
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	44	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.88 [0.64-0.99]	0.85 [0.66-0.96]
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	44	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.82 [0.57-0.96]	0.70 [0.50-0.86]
Fung 1994 (chronic neuroborreliosis; serum)	131	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.48 [0.28-0.69]	0.85 [0.77-0.91]
Fung 1994 (meningitis/facial palsy; serum)	146	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.88 [0.73-0.96]	0.85 [0.77-0.91]
Hunfeld 2002 (serum)	35	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.86 [0.70-0.95]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Johnson 1996 (serum)	130	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.94 [0.71-1.00]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Karlsson 1989 (CSF)	68	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.65 [0.52-0.76]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Karlsson 1989 (serum)	112	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.59 [0.46-0.71]	0.91 [0.78-0.97]
Lawrenz 1999 (recombinant; serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.80-1.00]	0.98 [0.89-1.00]
Lawrenz 1999 (whole-cell; serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.80-1.00]	0.94 [0.83-0.99]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.59-1.00]	0.97 [0.88-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Molins 2014 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	0.93 [0.89-0.96]
Molins 2016 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.69-1.00]	0.98 [0.94-0.99]
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	115	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.42 [0.25-0.61]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Roux 2007 (CSF)	27	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.91 [0.59-1.00]	0.75 [0.48-0.93]
Roux 2007 (serum)	27	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.91 [0.59-1.00]	0.63 [0.35-0.85]
Russell 1984 (serum)	126	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.87-1.00]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Tjernberg 2007 (Quick C6; serum)	226	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.88 [0.70-0.98]	0.08 [0.05-0.13]
Tjernberg 2007 (Virotech; serum)	226	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.96 [0.80-1.00]	0.24 [0.18-0.31]
van Burgel 2011 (antibody index)	202	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness	0.95 [0.86-0.99]	0.97 [0.92-0.99]
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA C6				
Cinco 2006 (serum)	30	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.54-1.00]	1.00 [0.86-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: ELFA				
Flisiak 1996 (serum)	44	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.94 [0.71-1.00]	0.93 [0.76-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Neuroborreliosis: CLIA (IgM/IgG)				
Tjernberg 2007 (serum)	226	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.85 [0.65-0.96]	0.19 [0.14-0.25]
Neuroborreliosis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)				
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	171	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.07 [0.02-0.17]	0.97 [0.92-0.99]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.80 [0.52-0.96]	0.91 [0.84-0.96]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.40 [0.16-0.68]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot; serum)	160	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.32-0.61]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot plus; serum)	160	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.70 [0.55-0.82]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (WB; serum)	160	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.40 [0.26-0.55]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Karlsson 1989 (serum)	112	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.55-0.78]	0.89 [0.75-0.96]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.29 [0.04-0.71]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Liu 2013 (serum)	357	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.49 [0.37-0.62]	0.94 [0.91-0.97]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	150	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.60 [0.45-0.74]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Molins 2014 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	1.00 [0.69-1.00]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Molins 2016 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	0.94 [0.90-0.97]
Wilske 1993 (OspC-blot; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.31-0.57]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Wilske 1993 (p100-blot; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.12 [0.05-0.23]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (p41/i-blot; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.20 [0.11-0.32]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)				
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.60 [0.32-0.84]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.40 [0.16-0.68]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Dressler 1993 (prospective; serum)	168	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.72 [0.53-0.87]	0.95 [0.90-0.98]
Goettner 2005 (line blot; serum)	160	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.86 [0.73-0.94]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot plus; serum)	160	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.88 [0.76-0.95]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (WB; serum)	160	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.72 [0.58-0.84]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Karlsson 1989 (serum)	112	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.65 [0.52-0.76]	0.89 [0.75-0.96]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.57 [0.18-0.90]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Liu 2013 (serum)	357	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.69 [0.57-0.80]	0.98 [0.96-0.99]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	150	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.32-0.61]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Molins 2014 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.30 [0.07-0.65]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.40 [0.12-0.74]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Panelius 2001 (serum)	14	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.71 [0.42-0.92]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Peltomaa 2004 (serum)	133	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness	1.00 [0.92-1.00]	0.95 [0.89-0.99]
Roux 2007 (CSF)	27	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.82 [0.48-0.98]	0.94 [0.70-1.00]
Roux 2007 (serum)	27	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.64 [0.31-0.89]	0.63 [0.35-0.85]
Schulte-Spechtel 2004 (recombinant; serum)	103	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.86 [0.71-0.95]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]
Schulte-Spechtel 2004 (whole-cell; serum)	103	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.64 [0.46-0.79]	0.97 [0.90-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (OspC-blot; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.15 [0.07-0.27]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (p100-blot; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.31-0.57]	0.94 [0.88-0.97]
Wilske 1993 (p41/i-blot; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹	0.25 [0.15-0.38]	0.96 [0.91-0.98]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Wilske 1999 (recombinant - new; serum)	181	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.45 [0.30-0.61]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Wilske 1999 (recombinant - old; serum)	181	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.29 [0.16-0.45]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Wilske 1999 (whole-cell; serum)	181	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.57 [0.41-0.72]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	171	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.97 [0.97-1.00]	0.92 [0.85-0.97]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.87 [0.60-0.98]	0.91 [0.84-0.96]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.53 [0.27-0.79]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Karlsson 1989 (serum)	112	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.78 [0.66-0.87]	0.82 [0.67-0.92]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.86 [0.42-1.00]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Molins 2014 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.69-1.00]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Molins 2016 (serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	0.93 [0.88-0.96]
Neuroborreliosis: IFA (IgM)				
Cerar 2006 (serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.07 [0.01-0.24]	1.00 [0.93-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.14 [0.00-0.58]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (IFA-ABS; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.30 [0.19-0.43]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Neuroborreliosis: IFA (IgG)				
Cerar 2006 (serum)	77	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.75 [0.55-0.89]	0.82 [0.68-0.91]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.14 [0.00-0.58]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (IFA-ABS; serum)	202	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.75 [0.62-0.85]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Neuroborreliosis: IFA (IgM/IgG)				
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	67	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.29 [0.04-0.71]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Russell 1984 (serum)	126	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.92 [0.75-0.99]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: PCR				
Lebech 1992 (CSF)	25	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.20 [0.03-0.56]	1.00 [0.78-1.00]
Lebech 1992 (urine)	45	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	1.00 [0.90-1.00]
Lebech 1998 (CSF)	220	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness	0.21 [0.14-0.28]	0.99 [0.92-1.00]
Lebech 2000 (CSF)	50	VERY LOW ^{1,2}	0.17 [0.06-0.35]	1.00 [0.83-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness		
Molins 2014 (blood and skin)	8	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.25 [0.03-0.65]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Nocton 1996 (CSF)	102	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.28 [0.17-0.41]	1.00 [0.92-1.00]
Priem 1997 (CSF)	52	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.79 [0.54-0.94]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: Culture				
Molins 2014 (blood and skin)	6	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.33 [0.04-0.78]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Neuroborreliosis: CXCL13				
Senel 2010 (cut-off 337 ng/g; CSF)	97	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.96 [0.82-1.00]	0.97 [0.90-1.00]
Lyme arthritis: ELISA (IgM)				
Ang 2015 (Diacheck; serum)	20	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.52]	1.00 [0.78-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Enzygnost; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.08 [0.00-0.36]	0.91 [0.83-0.95]
Ang 2015 (Liaison; serum)	234	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.41]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Ang 2015 (Serion; serum)	108	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.84]	0.73 [0.63-0.81]
Ang 2015 (Virotech; serum)	19	VERY LOW ^{1,3}	0.20 [0.01-0.72]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision		
Bacon 2003 (arthritis; rVIsE; serum)	290	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.39 [0.23-0.58]	0.98 [0.96-0.99]
Bacon 2003 (arthritis; serum)	290	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.09 [0.02-0.24]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (conval. arthritis; rVIsE; serum)	281	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.42 [0.22-0.63]	0.98 [0.96-0.99]
Bacon 2003 (conval. arthritis; serum)	281	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.08 [0.01-0.27]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.60 [0.32-0.84]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	34	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.71 [0.29-0.96]	0.85 [0.66-0.96]
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	34	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.59-1.00]	0.70 [0.50-0.86]
Fung 1994 (serum)	155	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.45 [0.31-0.60]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	73	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.25]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Molins 2017 (serum)	232	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.66 [0.46-0.82]	0.89 [0.83-0.93]
Panelius 2001 (serum)	19	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.37 [0.16-0.62]	Cannot be estimated ⁵

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	99	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.20]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Lyme arthritis: ELISA (IgG)				
Bacon 2003 (arthritis; rVIsE; serum)	290	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.97 [0.84-1.00]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (arthritis; serum)	290	VERY LOW ^a due to very serious risk of bias	0.94 [0.80-0.99]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (conval. arthritis; rVIsE; serum)	281	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.88 [0.68-0.97]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (conval. arthritis; serum)	281	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.88 [0.68-0.97]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.78-1.00]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Dressler 1993 (prospective; serum)	164	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.88 [0.69-0.97]	0.96 [0.92-0.99]
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	34	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.14 [0.00-0.41]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	34	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.41]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]
Fung 1994 (serum)	155	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.84 [0.70-0.93]	0.86 [0.78-0.92]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	73	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.64-1.00]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Molins 2017 (serum)	232	VERY LOW ¹	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Panelius 2001 (serum)	19	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.79 [0.54-0.94]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	99	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.82 [0.57-0.96]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Sillanpaa 2007 (serum)	97	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.93 [0.66-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Lyme arthritis: ELISA (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015 (Diacheck; serum)	20	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.80 [0.28-0.99]	0.93 [0.68-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Enzygnost; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.75-1.00]	0.88 [0.80-0.93]
Ang 2015 (Liaison; serum)	234	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.59-1.00]	0.92 [0.87-0.95]
Ang 2015 (Serion; serum)	108	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.16-1.00]	0.72 [0.62-0.80]
Ang 2015 (Virotech; serum)	19	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.48-1.00]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.78-1.00]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Branda 2013 (USA; C6; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	1.00 [0.78-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.93 [0.68-1.00]	0.97 [0.91-0.99]
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	34	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.71 [0.29-0.96]	0.85 [0.66-0.96]
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	34	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.59-1.00]	0.70 [0.50-0.86]
Fung 1994 (serum)	155	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.88 [0.75-0.95]	0.85 [0.77-0.91]
Johnson 1996 (serum)	149	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.89 [0.74-0.97]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Lahey 2015 (serum)	31	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.48-1.00]	0.96 [0.80-1.00]
Lawrenz 1999 (recombinant; serum)	73	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.87 [0.66-0.97]	0.98 [0.89-1.00]
Lawrenz 1999 (whole-cell; serum)	73	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.96 [0.78-1.00]	0.94 [0.83-0.99]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	73	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.64-1.00]	0.97 [0.88-1.00]
Molins 2014 (serum)	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.96 [0.92-0.98]
Molins 2016 (serum)	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.98 [0.94-0.99]
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	99	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.94 [0.71-1.00]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Russell 1984 (serum)	138	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.91-1.00]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Tjernberg 2007 (Quick C6; serum)	203	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.67 [0.09-0.99]	0.08 [0.05-0.13]
Tjernberg 2007 (Virotech; serum)	203	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.67 [0.09-0.99]	0.24 [0.18-0.31]
<u>Lyme arthritis: ELISA C6</u>				
Cinco 2006 (serum)	40	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.79-1.00]	1.00 [0.86-1.00]
<u>Lyme arthritis: ELISA C6 (IgA)</u>				
D'Arco 2017 (IgA; serum)	152	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.18 [0.04-0.43]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
<u>Lyme arthritis: ELFA</u>				
Flisiak 1996 (serum)	34	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.86 [0.42-1.00]	0.93 [0.76-0.99]
<u>Lyme arthritis: CLIA (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Tjernberg 2007 (serum)	203	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.67 [0.09-0.99]	0.19 [0.14-0.25]
<u>Lyme arthritis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)</u>				
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	112	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.37]	0.97 [0.92-0.99]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.67 [0.38-0.88]	0.91 [0.84-0.96]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.27 [0.08-0.55]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	73	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.25]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Molins 2014 (serum)	232	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.31 [0.15-0.51]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Molins 2016 (serum)	232	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.59 [0.39-0.76]	0.94 [0.90-0.97]
Porwancher 2011 (serum)	29	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.66 [0.46-0.82]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
<u>Lyme arthritis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)</u>				
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.87 [0.60-0.98]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.67 [0.38-0.88]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Dressler 1993 (prospective; serum)	164	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.96 [0.80-1.00]	0.95 [0.90-0.98]
Goettner 2005 (line blot; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot plus; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.69-1.00]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Goettner 2005 (WB; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.69-1.00]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	73	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.75-1.00]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Molins 2014 (serum)	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (serum)	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.97 [0.82-1.00]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Panelius 2001 (serum)	14	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.86 [0.57-0.98]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Porwancher 2011 (serum)	82	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.34 [0.24-0.45]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Lyme arthritis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	112	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.63-1.00]	0.92 [0.85-0.97]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.93 [0.68-1.00]	0.91 [0.84-0.96]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.73 [0.45-0.92]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	73	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.75-1.00]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Molins 2014 (serum)	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Molins 2016 (serum)	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.97 [0.82-1.00]	0.93 [0.88-0.96]
Porwancher 2011 (serum)	479	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.95 [0.93-0.97]
<u>Lyme arthritis: IFA (IgM)</u>				
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	73	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.25]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
<u>Lyme arthritis: IFA (IgG)</u>				
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	73	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.77 [0.46-0.95]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
<u>Lyme arthritis: IFA (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	73	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.77 [0.46-0.95]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Russell 1984 (serum)	138	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.91-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Lyme arthritis: PCR</u>				
Jaulhac 1996 (SF)	41	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.42 [0.15-0.72]	1.00 [0.88-1.00]
Molins 2014 (SF)	18	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.39 [0.17-0.64]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Nocton 1994 (SF)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.85 [0.76-0.92]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Schnarr 2001 (SF)	47	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.69 [0.41-0.89]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
van der Heijden 1999 (SF)	13	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.75 [0.19-0.99]	1.00 [0.66-1.00]
Vasiliu 1998 (SF)	30	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.65 [0.41-0.85]	1.00 [0.69-1.00]
<u>Lyme carditis: ELISA (IgM)</u>				
Molins 2017 (serum)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.71 [0.29-0.96]	0.89 [0.83-0.93]
<u>Lyme carditis: ELISA (IgG)</u>				
Molins 2017 (serum)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.86 [0.42-1.00]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
<u>Lyme carditis: ELISA (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Molins 2014 (serum)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.59-1.00]	0.96 [0.92-0.98]
Molins 2016 (serum)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.86 [0.42-1.00]	0.98 [0.94-0.99]
Russell 1984 (serum)	106	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.54-1.00]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
<u>Lyme carditis: IFA (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Russell 1984 (serum)	106	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.54-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Lyme carditis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)</u>				
Molins 2014 (serum)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.57 [0.18-0.90]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Molins 2016 (serum)	210	very serious imprecision VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.71 [0.29-0.96]	0.94 [0.90-0.97]
<u>Lyme carditis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)</u>				
Molins 2014 (serum)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.57 [0.18-0.90]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (serum)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.71 [0.29-0.96]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Lyme carditis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Molins 2014 (serum)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.86 [0.42-1.00]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Molins 2016 (serum)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.59-1.00]	0.93 [0.88-0.96]
<u>Lyme carditis: PCR</u>				
Molins 2014 (blood skin and heart)	7	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.29 [0.04-0.71]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
<u>Lyme carditis: Culture</u>				
Molins 2014 (blood skin and heart)	4	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.60]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
<u>Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: ELISA (IgM)</u>				
Ang 2015 (Diacheck; serum)	21	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.46]	1.00 [0.78-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Enzygnost; serum)	121	VERY LOW ^{1,3}	0.00 [0.00-0.23]	0.91 [0.83-0.95]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision		
Ang 2015 (Liaison; serum)	236	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.34]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Ang 2015 (Medac; serum)	94	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.84]	0.99 [0.94-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Serion; serum)	108	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.84]	0.73 [0.63-0.81]
Ang 2015 (Virotech; serum)	20	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.46]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Asbrink 1985 (after treatment; serum)	211	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.15 [0.04-0.35]	0.95 [0.91-0.98]
Asbrink 1985 (before treatment; serum)	211	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.27 [0.12-0.48]	0.95 [0.91-0.98]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.83 [0.52-0.98]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Hansen 1989 (flagellum; serum)	250	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.12 [0.05-0.24]	0.95 [0.91-0.98]
Hansen 1989 (sonic; serum)	250	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.22 [0.12-0.36]	0.94 [0.90-0.97]
Hansen 1991 (serum)	248	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.10 [0.03-0.23]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Karlsson 1989a (capture ELISA; serum)	83	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.00 [0.00-0.31]	0.97 [0.90-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		very serious imprecision		
Karlsson 1989a (indirect ELISA; serum)	83	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.30 [0.07-0.65]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.15 [0.03-0.38]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	124	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.00 [0.00-0.08]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Widhe 2004 (serum)	28	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.60 [0.15-0.95]	1.00 [0.85-1.00]
Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: ELISA (IgG)				
Asbrink 1985 (after treatment; serum)	211	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.92 [0.75-0.99]	0.95 [0.91-0.98]
Asbrink 1985 (before treatment; serum)	211	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.87-1.00]	0.95 [0.91-0.98]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	0.98 [0.93-1.00]
Hansen 1989 (flagellum; serum)	250	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.93-1.00]	0.96 [0.92-0.98]
Hansen 1989 (sonic; serum)	250	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.98 [0.89-1.00]	0.94 [0.90-0.97]
Hansen 1991 (serum)	248	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.93-1.00]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	120	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.83-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Panelius 2008 (serum)	30	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.80 [0.44-0.97]	1.00 [0.83-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	124	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.33 [0.20-0.50]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Widhe 2004 (serum)	28	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.48-1.00]	1.00 [0.85-1.00]
Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: ELISA (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015 (Diacheck; serum)	21	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.54-1.00]	0.93 [0.68-1.00]
Ang 2015 (Enzygnost; serum)	121	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	0.88 [0.80-0.93]
Ang 2015 (Liaison; serum)	235	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.63-1.00]	0.92 [0.87-0.95]
Ang 2015 (Medac; serum)	94	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.16-1.00]	0.97 [0.91-0.99]
Ang 2015 (Serion; serum)	108	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.16-1.00]	0.72 [0.62-0.80]
Ang 2015 (Virotech; serum)	20	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.54-1.00]	1.00 [0.77-1.00]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Branda 2013 (USA; C6; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3}	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	0.97 [0.91-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision		
Rauer 1995 (recombinant; serum)	124	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.86 [0.71-0.95]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Tjernberg 2007 (Quick C6; serum)	209	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.89 [0.52-1.00]	0.08 [0.05-0.13]
Tjernberg 2007 (Virotech; serum)	209	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.66-1.00]	0.24 [0.18-0.31]
Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: CLIA (IgM/IgG)				
Tjernberg 2007 (serum)	209	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.67 [0.30-0.93]	0.19 [0.14-0.25]
Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)				
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.28]	0.97 [0.92-0.99]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.36 [0.13-0.65]	0.91 [0.84-0.96]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.29 [0.08-0.58]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.10 [0.01-0.32]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)				
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.69-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot plus; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.69-1.00]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (WB; serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.05 [0.00-0.25]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]
Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen; serum)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.72-1.00]	0.92 [0.85-0.97]
Branda 2013 (EU; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	0.91 [0.84-0.96]
Branda 2013 (USA; serum)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: PCR				
Moter 1994 (skin)	16	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.62-1.00]	1.00 [0.40-1.00]
von Stedingk 1995 (skin)	112	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.61 [0.43-0.77]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM)				
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	69	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.64 [0.48-0.78]	0.85 [0.66-0.96]
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	69	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.60 [0.43-0.74]	0.70 [0.50-0.86]
Flisiak 1998 (serum)	74	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.43-0.72]	0.88 [0.70-0.98]
Goossens 2000 (late; Behring; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.62 [0.32-0.86]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (late; Boehring; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (late; Dako; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.69 [0.39-0.91]	0.95 [0.87-0.99]
Goossens 2000 (late; Genzyme Virotech; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.62 [0.32-0.86]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (late; IBL; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.62 [0.32-0.86]	0.90 [0.80-0.96]
Hernandez-Novoa 2003 (disseminated; serum)	147	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.67 [0.41-0.87]	0.95 [0.89-0.98]
Hunfeld 2002 (serum)	1150	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.09 [0.03-0.22]	0.92 [0.90-0.94]
Karlsson 1989a (capture ELISA; serum)	150	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.39 [0.28-0.51]	0.97 [0.90-1.00]
Karlsson 1989a (indirect ELISA; serum)	150	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.31 [0.21-0.43]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Smismans 2006 (purified; serum)	53	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.69 [0.39-0.91]	0.78 [0.62-0.89]
Smismans 2006 (synthetic C6; serum)	53	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.85 [0.55-0.98]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]
Smismans 2006 (whole-cell; serum)	53	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.85 [0.55-0.98]	0.53 [0.36-0.68]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; flagellin; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.36 [0.28-0.45]	0.96 [0.91-0.98]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; OGP-ELISA; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.38-0.55]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Wilske 1993 (late; flagellin; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.14 [0.05-0.28]	0.96 [0.91-0.98]
Wilske 1993 (late; OGP-ELISA; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.23 [0.12-0.39]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA (IgG)				
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	69	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.24 [0.12-0.39]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	69	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.29 [0.16-0.45]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]
Flisiak 1998 (serum)	74	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.31-0.61]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (late; Behring; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.64-1.00]	0.85 [0.74-0.93]
Goossens 2000 (late; Boehring; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.54 [0.25-0.81]	0.89 [0.78-0.95]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Goossens 2000 (late; Dako; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.77 [0.46-0.95]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (late; Genzyme Virotech; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.64-1.00]	0.94 [0.84-0.98]
Goossens 2000 (late; IBL; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.69 [0.39-0.91]	0.87 [0.76-0.94]
Hernandez-Novoa 2003 (disseminated; serum)	147	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.22 [0.06-0.48]	0.57 [0.48-0.66]
Hunfeld 2002 (serum)	1150	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.93 [0.81-0.99]	0.95 [0.93-0.96]
Nohlmans 1994 (late; Dako; serum)	105	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.86 [0.64-0.97]	0.99 [0.94-1.00]
Nohlmans 1994 (late; Diagast; serum)	105	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.86 [0.64-0.97]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Smismans 2006 (purified; serum)	62	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.59 [0.36-0.79]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Smismans 2006 (synthetic C6; serum)	62	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.91 [0.71-0.99]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]
Smismans 2006 (whole-cell; serum)	62	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.91 [0.71-0.99]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; flagellin; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.71 [0.62-0.78]	0.94 [0.88-0.97]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; OGP-ELISA; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.60 [0.51-0.68]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Wilske 1993 (flagellin; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.88 [0.75-0.96]	0.94 [0.88-0.97]
Wilske 1993 (OGP-ELISA; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.92-1.00]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM/IgG)				
Branda 2010 (serum)	251	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.94-1.00]	0.96 [0.92-0.98]
Branda 2011 (early disseminated; serum)	1326	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.87-1.00]	0.98 [0.98-0.99]
Branda 2011 (late; serum)	1329	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.98 [0.98-0.99]
Flisiak 1996 (flagella; serum)	69	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.76 [0.61-0.88]	0.85 [0.66-0.96]
Flisiak 1996 (recombinant; serum)	69	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.81 [0.66-0.91]	0.70 [0.50-0.86]
Flisiak 1998 (serum)	74	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.77 [0.63-0.88]	0.88 [0.70-0.98]
Gomes-Solecki 2001 (whole-cell; serum)	220	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.71 [0.62-0.79]	0.95 [0.89-0.98]
Goossens 2000 (late; Milenia; serum)	75	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.69 [0.39-0.91]	0.95 [0.87-0.99]
Hernandez-Novoa 2003 (disseminated; serum)	18	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.78 [0.52-0.94]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Hunfeld 2002 (serum)	43	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.95 [0.84-0.99]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Johnson 1996 (serum)	224	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.58-0.76]	0.96 [0.90-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Jovicic 2003 (serum)	214	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.67 [0.57-0.76]	0.93 [0.87-0.97]
Ledue 2008 (early disseminated; serum)	848	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.80 [0.65-0.91]	0.98 [0.97-0.99]
Molins 2014 (serum)	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.85 [0.78-0.91]	0.93 [0.89-0.96]
Molins 2015 (early Lyme disease; serum)	338	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.56 [0.49-0.63]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (serum)	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.81 [0.73-0.87]	0.98 [0.94-0.99]
Nohlmans 1994 (late; Diamedix; serum)	105	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.86 [0.64-0.97]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Nohlmans 1994 (late; Whittaker; serum)	105	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.71 [0.48-0.89]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Oksi 1995 (flagella; serum)	78	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.41 [0.26-0.58]	0.86 [0.71-0.95]
Oksi 1995 (recombinant; serum)	78	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.15 [0.06-0.29]	0.95 [0.82-0.99]
Oksi 1995 (sonicated; serum)	78	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.78 [0.62-0.89]	0.89 [0.75-0.97]
Smismans 2006 (purified; serum)	62	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.91 [0.71-0.99]	0.78 [0.62-0.89]
Smismans 2006 (synthetic C6; serum)	62	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.91 [0.71-0.99]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]
Smismans 2006 (whole-cell; serum)	62	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.85-1.00]	0.50 [0.34-0.66]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Steere 2008 (acute disseminated; serum)	149	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.75-1.00]	0.96 [0.92-0.99]
Steere 2008 (chronic disseminated; serum)	167	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.89-1.00]	0.96 [0.92-0.99]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELFA				
Flisiak 1996 (serum)	69	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.79 [0.63-0.90]	0.93 [0.76-0.99]
Flisiak 1998 (serum)	74	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.81 [0.67-0.91]	0.92 [0.75-0.99]
Unspecified Lyme disease: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)				
Branda 2010 (serum)	251	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.36-0.64]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (late; Genzyme Virotech; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.62 [0.32-0.86]	0.89 [0.78-0.95]
Goossens 2000 (late; MRL; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.54 [0.25-0.81]	0.98 [0.91-1.00]
Molins 2014 (serum)	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.37-0.55]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Molins 2015 (early Lyme disease; serum)	338	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.33 [0.26-0.41]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Molins 2016 (serum)	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.65 [0.56-0.74]	0.94 [0.90-0.97]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; OspC-blot; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.35-0.52]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; p100-blot; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.13 [0.08-0.20]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; p41/i-blot; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹	0.15 [0.09-0.22]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Wilske 1993 (late; OspC-blot; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.40 [0.25-0.56]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Wilske 1993 (late; p100-blot; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.19 [0.08-0.33]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (late; p41/i-blot; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.12 [0.04-0.25]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)				
Branda 2010 (serum)	251	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.86 [0.74-0.94]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Flisiak 1998 (serum)	74	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.35-0.65]	1.00 [0.87-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot; serum)	195	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.81 [0.71-0.89]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (line blot plus; serum)	195	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.85 [0.75-0.92]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Goettner 2005 (WB; serum)	195	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.71 [0.60-0.80]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Goossens 2000 (late; Genzyme Virotech; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	0.82 [0.70-0.91]
Goossens 2000 (late; MRL; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Klempner 2001 (serum)	31	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.67 [0.43-0.85]	1.00 [0.69-1.00]
Molins 2014 (serum)	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.47 [0.38-0.56]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2015 (early Lyme disease; serum)	338	VERY LOW ¹	0.04 [0.02-0.08]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Molins 2016 (serum)	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.34-0.52]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; OspC-blot; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.14 [0.09-0.21]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; p100-blot; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.51 [0.42-0.59]	0.94 [0.88-0.97]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; p41/i-blot; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.32 [0.24-0.41]	0.96 [0.91-0.98]
Wilske 1993 (late; OspC-blot; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.16 [0.07-0.31]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (late; p100-blot; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.92-1.00]	0.94 [0.88-0.97]
Wilske 1993 (late; p41/i-blot; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.60 [0.44-0.75]	0.96 [0.91-0.98]
Wilske 1999 (late; recomb - new; serum)	178	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.97 [0.87-1.00]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Wilske 1999 (late; recomb - old; serum)	178	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.74 [0.58-0.87]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Wilske 1999 (late; whole-cell; serum)	178	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.91-1.00]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Branda 2010 (serum)	251	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.98 [0.90-1.00]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Grodzicki 1988 (acute; serum)	50	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.53 [0.34-0.72]	1.00 [0.83-1.00]
Grodzicki 1988 (convalescent; serum)	50	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.83 [0.65-0.94]	1.00 [0.83-1.00]
Jovicic 2003 (serum)	214	VERY LOW ¹	0.93 [0.85-0.97]	0.96 [0.91-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Molins 2014 (serum)	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.73 [0.64-0.80]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Molins 2015 (early Lyme disease; serum)	338	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.08 [0.05-0.13]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Molins 2016 (serum)	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.77 [0.69-0.84]	0.93 [0.88-0.96]
Unspecified Lyme disease: CLIA (IgM/IgG)				
Ledue 2008 (early disseminated; serum)	848	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.76 [0.60-0.88]	0.98 [0.98-0.99]
Molins 2015 (early Lyme disease; serum)	338	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.61 [0.54-0.68]	0.91 [0.86-0.95]
Unspecified Lyme disease: IFA (IgM)				
Cerar 2006 (chronic Lyme disease over 6mo; serum)	70	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.14 [0.03-0.36]	1.00 [0.93-1.00]
Cerar 2006 (early Lyme disease under 6mo; serum)	109	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.10 [0.04-0.21]	1.00 [0.93-1.00]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; IFA-ABS; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.23 [0.16-0.31]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Wilske 1993 (late; IFA-ABS; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.05 [0.01-0.16]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Unspecified Lyme disease: IFA (IgG)				
Cerar 2006 (chronic Lyme disease over 6 months; serum)	70	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.84-1.00]	0.82 [0.68-0.91]
Cerar 2006 (early Lyme disease under 6 months; serum)	109	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.45-0.71]	0.82 [0.68-0.91]
Hanrahan 1984 (titre 1:128; serum)	489	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.55 [0.47-0.63]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hanrahan 1984 (titre 1:256; serum)	489	VERY LOW ^{1,2}	0.36 [0.28-0.44]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness		
Hanrahan 1984 (titre 1:64; serum)	489	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness	0.70 [0.62-0.77]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Wilske 1993 (all Lyme disease; IFA-ABS; serum)	276	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.76 [0.68-0.83]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Wilske 1993 (late; IFA-ABS; serum)	185	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.92-1.00]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Unspecified Lyme disease: IFA (IgM/IgG)				
Jovicic 2003 (serum)	214	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.36 [0.27-0.47]	0.89 [0.82-0.94]
Unspecified Lyme disease: Recombinant Rapid Assay				
Gomes-Solecki 2001 (recombinant; serum)	220	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.72 [0.64-0.80]	0.97 [0.91-0.99]
Unspecified Lyme disease: PCR				
Liebling 1993 (CSF)	28	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.75-1.00]	0.93 [0.68-1.00]
Liebling 1993 (serum)	28	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.59 [0.36-0.79]	1.00 [0.54-1.00]
Liebling 1993 (SF)	27	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.80 [0.28-0.99]	1.00 [0.85-1.00]
Liebling 1993 (urine)	16	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.29-1.00]	0.92 [0.64-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: CD57				
Stricker 2001 (acute Lyme disease)	32	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.31]	0.82 [0.60-0.95]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Stricker 2001 (chronic Lyme disease)	53	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.89-1.00]	0.82 [0.60-0.95]
Unspecified Lyme disease: Culture				
Phillips 1998 (blood)	70	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.91 [0.80-0.98]	1.00 [0.85-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: Lymphocyte transformation test				
von Baehr 2012 (stimulation index 3+; venous)	254	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.89 [0.81-0.95]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Post-treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome: ELISA (IgM/IgG)				
Fallon 2014 (commercial lab; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.50-0.82]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab A; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.50-0.82]	0.97 [0.87-1.00]
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab B; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.50-0.82]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]
Fallon 2014 (university reference; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.62 [0.45-0.76]	0.88 [0.73-0.96]
Post-treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)				
Fallon 2014 (commercial lab; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.16 [0.06-0.32]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab A; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.03 [0.00-0.14]	0.97 [0.87-1.00]
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab B; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.27-0.61]	0.80 [0.64-0.91]
Fallon 2014 (university reference; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.22 [0.10-0.38]	0.88 [0.73-0.96]
Porwancher 2011 (serum)	34	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.38 [0.22-0.56]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Post-treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)				

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Fallon 2014 (commercial lab; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.27-0.61]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab A; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.27-0.61]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab B; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.49 [0.32-0.66]	0.93 [0.80-0.98]
Fallon 2014 (university reference; serum)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.57 [0.39-0.73]	0.97 [0.87-1.00]
Porwancher 2011 (serum)	34	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.32-0.68]	Cannot be estimated ⁵
Post-treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Porwancher 2011 (serum)	484	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.49-0.83]	0.95 [0.93-0.97]
Time point – less than 6 weeks: ELISA (IgM)				
Hansen 1988 (NB; flagellum; CSF)	149	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.88 [0.75-0.96]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Hansen 1988 (NB; flagellum; serum)	358	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.51 [0.35-0.67]	0.97 [0.94-0.98]
Hansen 1988 (NB; sonic extract; CSF)	149	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.81 [0.67-0.92]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Hansen 1988 (NB; sonic extract; serum)	358	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.40 [0.25-0.56]	0.97 [0.94-0.98]
Hansen 1991 (EM; serum)	237	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.35 [0.20-0.53]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hansen 1991 (NB; serum)	270	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.34-0.58]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hansen 1991a (NB; CSF)	99	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.71 [0.59-0.82]	1.00 [0.88-1.00]
Hansen 1991a (NB; serum)	99	VERY LOW ¹	0.61 [0.49-0.73]	1.00 [0.88-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Karlsson 1989 (NB; serum)	99	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.36 [0.24-0.50]	0.98 [0.88-1.00]
Karlsson 1989a (EM; capture; serum)	101	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.29 [0.13-0.49]	0.97 [0.90-1.00]
Karlsson 1989a (EM; indirect; serum)	101	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.25 [0.11-0.45]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]
Karlsson 1989a (NB; capture; serum)	100	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.63 [0.42-0.81]	0.97 [0.90-1.00]
Karlsson 1989a (NB; indirect; serum)	100	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.44 [0.25-0.65]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; Enzygnost; serum)	309	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.69 [0.58-0.79]	0.96 [0.93-0.98]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; RecomWell; serum)	309	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.56 [0.44-0.67]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Padula 1994 (EM; recombinant; serum)	115	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.74 [0.58-0.87]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]
Padula 1994 (EM; whole-cell; serum)	115	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.64 [0.47-0.79]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]
Time point – less than 6 weeks: ELISA (IgG)				
Hansen 1988 (NB; flagellum; CSF)	149	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.42-0.73]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Hansen 1988 (NB; flagellum; serum)	358	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.70 [0.54-0.83]	0.97 [0.95-0.99]
Hansen 1988 (NB; sonic extract; CSF)	149	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.51 [0.35-0.67]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Hansen 1988 (NB; sonic extract; serum)	358	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.28 [0.15-0.44]	0.96 [0.93-0.98]
Hansen 1991 (EM; serum)	237	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.22 [0.10-0.38]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hansen 1991 (NB; serum)	270	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.77 [0.66-0.86]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hansen 1991a (NB; CSF)	99	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.84 [0.74-0.92]	0.93 [0.77-0.99]
Hansen 1991a (NB; serum)	99	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.77 [0.66-0.86]	0.97 [0.82-1.00]
Karlsson 1989 (NB; serum)	99	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.27 [0.16-0.41]	0.93 [0.81-0.99]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; Enzygnost; serum)	309	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.69 [0.58-0.79]	0.88 [0.84-0.92]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; RecomWell; serum)	309	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.51 [0.39-0.62]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Time point – less than 6 weeks: ELISA (IgM/IgG)				
Karlsson 1989 (NB; serum)	99	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.51 [0.37-0.65]	0.91 [0.78-0.97]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; Enzygnost; serum)	309	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.76 [0.65-0.85]	0.85 [0.79-0.89]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; Quick C6)	309	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.57 [0.45-0.69]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; RecomWell; serum)	309	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.56-0.78]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Time point – less than 6 weeks: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)				
Karlsson 1989 (NB; serum)	99	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.67 [0.53-0.79]	0.89 [0.75-0.96]
Padula 1994 (EM; serum)	115	VERY LOW ¹	0.72 [0.55-0.85]	0.97 [0.91-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Time point – less than 6 weeks: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)				
Karlsson 1989 (NB; serum)	99	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.44-0.71]	0.89 [0.75-0.96]
Time point – less than 6 weeks: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Karlsson 1989 (NB; serum)	99	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.75 [0.61-0.85]	0.82 [0.67-0.92]
Time point – less than 6 weeks: Culture				
Sapi 2013 (blood)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness	0.47 [0.35-0.59]	1.00 [0.93-1.00]
Time point – 6 weeks to 6 months: ELISA (IgM)				
Hansen 1988 (NB; flagellum; CSF)	119	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.85 [0.55-0.98]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Hansen 1988 (NB; flagellum; serum)	328	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	0.97 [0.94-0.98]
Hansen 1988 (NB; sonic extract; CSF)	119	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.64-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Hansen 1988 (NB; sonic extract; serum)	328	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.23 [0.05-0.54]	0.97 [0.94-0.98]
Hansen 1991 (EM; serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.23 [0.05-0.54]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hansen 1991 (NB; serum)	230	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.17 [0.06-0.35]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hansen 1991a (NB; CSF)	48	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.84 [0.60-0.97]	1.00 [0.88-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Hansen 1991a (NB; serum)	48	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.58 [0.33-0.80]	1.00 [0.88-1.00]
Kaiser 1999 (NB; less than 6 months; serum)	161	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.60 [0.49-0.71]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]
Karlsson 1989 (NB; over 6 weeks; serum)	57	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.23 [0.05-0.54]	0.98 [0.88-1.00]
Karlsson 1989a (EM; capture; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.16-1.00]	0.97 [0.90-1.00]
Karlsson 1989a (EM; indirect; serum)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.50 [0.01-0.99]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]
Karlsson 1989a (NB; capture; serum)	83	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.30 [0.07-0.65]	0.97 [0.90-1.00]
Karlsson 1989a (NB; indirect; serum)	83	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.20 [0.03-0.56]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; Enzygnost; serum)	254	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.75 [0.51-0.91]	0.96 [0.93-0.98]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; RecomWell; serum)	254	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.55 [0.32-0.77]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Padula 1994 (EM; recombinant; serum)	91	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.67 [0.38-0.88]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]
Padula 1994 (EM; whole-cell; serum)	91	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.80 [0.52-0.96]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Time point – 6 weeks to 6 months: ELISA (IgG)				
Hansen 1988 (NB; flagellum; CSF)	119	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.64-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Hansen 1988 (NB; flagellum; serum)	328	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.75-1.00]	0.97 [0.95-0.99]
Hansen 1988 (NB; sonic extract; CSF)	119	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.75-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Hansen 1988 (NB; sonic extract; serum)	328	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.85 [0.55-0.98]	0.96 [0.93-0.98]
Hansen 1991 (EM; serum)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hansen 1991 (NB; serum)	230	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Hansen 1991a (NB; CSF)	48	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.82-1.00]	0.93 [0.77-0.99]
Hansen 1991a (NB; serum)	48	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.82-1.00]	0.97 [0.82-1.00]
Kaiser 1999 (NB; less than 6 months; serum)	161	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.32-0.55]	0.68 [0.56-0.78]
Karlsson 1989 (NB; over 6 weeks; serum)	57	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.85 [0.55-0.98]	0.93 [0.81-0.99]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; Enzygnost; serum)	254	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.45 [0.23-0.68]	0.88 [0.84-0.92]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; RecomWell; serum)	254	VERY LOW ^{1,3}	0.85 [0.62-0.97]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision		
Time point – 6 weeks to 6 months: ELISA (IgM/IgG)				
Karlsson 1989 (NB; over 6 weeks; serum)	57	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.64-1.00]	0.91 [0.78-0.97]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; Enzygnost; serum)	254	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.85 [0.62-0.97]	0.85 [0.79-0.89]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; Quick C6)	254	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.80 [0.56-0.94]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Marangoni 2005 (EM; RecomWell; serum)	254	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.95 [0.75-1.00]	0.97 [0.94-0.99]
Time point – 6 weeks to 6 months: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)				
Karlsson 1989 (NB; over 6 weeks; serum)	57	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.69 [0.39-0.91]	0.89 [0.75-0.96]
Padula 1994 (EM; serum)	91	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.87 [0.60-0.98]	0.97 [0.91-1.00]
Time point – 6 weeks to 6 months: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)				
Karlsson 1989 (NB; over 6 weeks; serum)	57	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.61-1.00]	0.89 [0.75-0.96]
Time point – 6 weeks to 6 months: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Karlsson 1989 (NB; over 6 weeks; serum)	57	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.92 [0.61-1.00]	0.82 [0.67-0.92]
Time point – 6 weeks to 6 months: Culture				

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Sapi 2013 (16 weeks; blood)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness	0.94 [0.86-0.98]	1.00 [0.93-1.00]
Sapi 2013 (8 weeks; blood)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness	0.83 [0.73-0.91]	1.00 [0.93-1.00]
Time point – more than 6 months: ELISA (IgM)				
Hansen 1991a (NB; CSF)	40	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.09 [0.00-0.41]	1.00 [0.88-1.00]
Hansen 1991a (NB; serum)	40	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.18 [0.02-0.52]	1.00 [0.88-1.00]
Kaiser 1999 (NB; over 6 months; serum)	95	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.13 [0.02-0.40]	0.90 [0.81-0.96]
Time point – more than 6 months: ELISA (IgG)				
Hansen 1991a (NB; CSF)	40	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.72-1.00]	0.93 [0.77-0.99]
Hansen 1991a (NB; serum)	40	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.72-1.00]	0.97 [0.82-1.00]
Kaiser 1999 (NB; over 6 months; serum)	95	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.78-1.00]	0.68 [0.56-0.78]

- 1) Risk of bias was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies were rated at high risk of bias and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies were rated at very high risk of bias.
- 2) Indirectness was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist items referring to applicability. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies are seriously indirect, and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies are very seriously indirect.
- 3) Imprecision was assessed based on inspection of the confidence interval of sensitivity in the individual study. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment when there was a 20-40% range of the confidence interval around the point estimate and downgraded by 2 increments when there was a range of >40%.

- 4) *Inconsistency could not be assessed, as the committee was unable to set a sensitivity threshold as an acceptable level to recommend a test. This was due to the lack of a good reference standard and the fact that studies, populations, tests and conditions were very heterogeneous.*
- 5) *Specificity could not be calculated because data on false positive and true negative results were not reported.*

Table 9: Clinical evidence summary: initial tests for Lyme disease (children, cross-sectional studies)

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
<u>Erythema migrans: ELISA (IgM)</u>				
Bennet 2008 (serum)	182	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.83 [0.36-1.00]	0.81 [0.74-0.86]
<u>Erythema migrans: ELISA (IgG)</u>				
Bennet 2008 (serum)	182	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.46]	0.98 [0.95-1.00]
<u>Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgM)</u>				
Bennet 2008 (serum)	246	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.74 [0.62-0.84]	0.81 [0.74-0.86]
<u>Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgG)</u>				
Bennet 2008 (serum)	246	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.47 [0.35-0.59]	0.98 [0.95-1.00]
<u>Neuroborreliosis: CXCL13</u>				
Barstad 2017 (CSF; cut-off 18 pg/ml)	178	MODERATE ¹ Due to serious risk of bias	0.97 [0.88-1.00]	0.97 [0.93-0.99]
Barstad 2017 (CSF; cut-off 81 pg/ml)	178	MODERATE ¹ Due to serious risk of bias	0.93 [0.84-0.98]	0.98 [0.94-1.00]
Barstad 2017 (CSF; cut-off 213 pg/ml)	178	MODERATE ¹ Due to serious risk of bias	0.92 [0.81-0.97]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
<u>Facial palsy: ELISA (IgM)</u>				
Bennet 2008 (serum)	191	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.47 [0.21-0.73]	0.81 [0.74-0.86]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Facial palsy: ELISA (IgG)				
Bennet 2008 (serum)	191	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.00 [0.00-0.22]	0.98 [0.95-1.00]
Lyme arthritis: PCR				
Avery 2006 (CSF)	108	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.05 [0.00-0.25]	0.99 [0.94-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA C6				
Lipsett 2016 (serum)	944	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.80 [0.71-0.87]	0.94 [0.92-0.96]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA WCS				
Lipsett 2016 (serum)	944	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.88 [0.80-0.93]	0.81 [0.78-0.83]

- 1) Risk of bias was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies were rated at high risk of bias and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies were rated at very high risk of bias.
- 2) Indirectness was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist items referring to applicability. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies are seriously indirect and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies are very seriously indirect.
- 3) Imprecision was assessed based on inspection of the confidence interval of sensitivity in the individual study. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment when there was a 20-40% range of the confidence interval around the point estimate, and downgraded by 2 increments when there was a range of >40%.
- 4) Inconsistency could not be assessed, as the committee was unable to set a sensitivity threshold as an acceptable level to recommend a test. This was due to the lack of a good reference standard and the fact that studies, populations, tests and conditions were very heterogeneous.

Table 10: Clinical evidence summary: initial tests for Lyme disease (children, case-control studies)

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Erythema migrans: ELISA (IgM)				
Gerber 1995 (rOspC; serum)	132	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.35-0.58]	0.98 [0.89-1.00]
Gerber 1995 (whole-cell; serum)	132	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.28 [0.19-0.39]	1.00 [0.93-1.00]
Erythema migrans: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)				
Gerber 1995 (serum)	132	VERY LOW ¹	0.29 [0.20-0.40]	1.00 [0.93-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgM)				
Krbkova 2016 (recombinant; CSF)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.26 [0.17-0.36]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]
Krbkova 2016 (recombinant; serum)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.39-0.61]	0.94 [0.85-0.98]
Krbkova 2016 (whole-cell; CSF)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.32-0.54]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]
Krbkova 2016 (whole-cell; serum)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.55 [0.44-0.65]	0.83 [0.72-0.91]
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgG)				
Krbkova 2016 (recombinant; CSF)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.80 [0.70-0.88]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Krbkova 2016 (recombinant; serum)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.87 [0.78-0.93]	0.82 [0.70-0.90]
Krbkova 2016 (whole-cell; CSF)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.64 [0.53-0.74]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]
Krbkova 2016 (whole-cell; serum)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.73 [0.63-0.82]	0.80 [0.69-0.89]
Skogman 2008 (recombinant; CSF)	76	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.80 [0.64-0.91]	1.00 [0.90-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)				
Krbkova 2016 (CSF)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.13 [0.07-0.22]	1.00 [0.95-1.00]
Krbkova 2016 (serum)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.36 [0.26-0.47]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)				
Krbkova 2016 (CSF)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.36 [0.26-0.47]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Krbkova 2016 (serum)	152	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.55 [0.44-0.65]	0.91 [0.81-0.97]
Neuroborreliosis: CXCL13				
Wutte 2011 (serum) 100 pg/ml	322	VERY LOW ^{1,2,3} due to very serious risk of bias, serious indirectness and serious imprecision	0.73 [0.50-0.89]	0.87 [0.83-0.91]
Lyme arthritis: ELISA (IgG)				
Heikkila 2002 (serum)	92	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.77 [0.63-0.87]	0.95 [0.83-0.99]

- 1) Risk of bias was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies were rated at high risk of bias and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies were rated at very high risk of bias.
- 2) Indirectness was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist items referring to applicability. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies are seriously indirect and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies are very seriously indirect.
- 3) Imprecision was assessed based on inspection of the confidence interval of sensitivity in the individual study. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment when there was a 20-40% range of the confidence interval around the point estimate, and downgraded by 2 increments when there was a range of >40%.
- 4) Inconsistency could not be assessed, as the committee was unable to set a sensitivity threshold as an acceptable level to recommend a test. This was due to the lack of a good reference standard and the fact that studies, populations, tests and conditions were very heterogeneous.

1 1.4 Economic evidence

2 1.4.1 Included studies

3 No relevant health economic studies were identified.

4 1.4.2 Excluded studies

5 Two economic studies relating to this review question were identified but were excluded due
6 to a combination of limited applicability and very serious methodological limitations.^{184,292}
7 These are listed in appendix I, with reasons for exclusion given.

8 See also the health economic study selection flow chart in appendix F.

9 1.4.3 Health economic exploratory analysis

10 An exploratory analysis was conducted to estimate the additional cost of 2-tier testing (ELISA
11 including C6 IgM and IgG followed by confirmatory immunoblot if ELISA is positive) over
12 initial testing only (ELISA including C6 IgM and IgG) in people with suspected Lyme disease
13 and evaluate what the cost of a misdiagnosis (either false positive or false negative) would
14 need to be for 2-tier testing to be cost-neutral. A detailed write up of this analysis is available
15 in appendix H.

16 The results of this exploratory analysis indicate that the cost of a misdiagnosis would need to
17 be between £69 and £381 (depending on data inputs used) for the 2-tier testing to be cost
18 neutral compared to initial testing only.

19 Overall, the committee considered that a misdiagnosis was very likely to cost at least £381,
20 as these people would have a number of healthcare interactions whether the misdiagnosis
21 was a false positive or a false negative. Therefore, the committee agreed that 2-tier testing is
22 very likely to be at least cost neutral compared to initial testing only and that it may even be
23 cost saving.

24 1.4.4 Unit costs

25 The following unit costs were presented to the committee to aid consideration of cost-
26 effectiveness.

27 **Table 11: NHS costs of Lyme disease tests**

Test	Unit cost (a)
C6 antigen-based ELISA (combined IgG and IgM)	£25.45
Lyme immunoblot (IgG and IgM) and ELISA (as above)	£95.56
Lyme PCR (b)	£42.23

28 *Source: Public Health England Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory, April 2016-March 2017.*³⁸⁵
29 *(a) A handling fee may be added onto these published costs by local pathology laboratories.*
30 *(b) For testing joint fluid, biopsy tissue and cerebrospinal fluid.*

31 1.5 Resource impact

32 We do not expect recommendations resulting from this review area to have a significant
33 impact on resources.

1 1.6 Evidence statements

2 1.6.1 Clinical evidence statements

3 Overall, the evidence was of Very Low quality due to the case-control study design, risk of
4 bias and imprecision. The included studies varied significantly by test, study population and
5 clinical presentation. It was not possible to meta-analyse the large number of results because
6 studies with comparable tests differed in how clinical presentations were reported, how tests
7 were conducted and analysed and how the test results were interpreted.

8 Generally, combined IgM/IgG tests showed better sensitivity and specificity results for
9 different clinical presentations of Lyme disease than IgM-only and IgG-only tests. There was
10 no clear advantage of ELISAs over immunoblots or western blots or vice versa for any
11 clinical presentation. *Borrelia* culture and polymerase chain reaction (PCR), which also
12 functioned as reference standards in this review, showed poor results when compared to
13 clinical diagnosis. There was only limited evidence for other tests, which required caution
14 when interpreting the results.

15 The analyses by time point did not show any clear advantage of 1 test over the other. IgM
16 tests tended to have a higher sensitivity in the early stages of Lyme disease, such as the
17 erythema migrans, and a lower sensitivity in later stages of Lyme disease. By contrast, the
18 sensitivity of IgG test increased with disease progression.

19 There was only limited evidence in children. The sensitivity of tests was generally lower in
20 children than in adults. There was no noticeable difference in specificity between adults and
21 children for different clinical presentations of Lyme disease.

22 1.6.2 Health economic evidence statements

23 One original exploratory analysis found that the cost of a misdiagnosis (false positive or false
24 negative) would need to be between £69 and £381 (depending on data inputs used) for 2-tier
25 testing (ELISA and immunoblot) to be cost neutral compared to initial testing only (ELISA) in
26 people with suspected Lyme disease. This analysis was assessed as partially applicable with
27 potentially serious limitations.

2 Confirmatory tests for Lyme disease

2.1 Review question: In people with a positive test for Lyme disease, what is the most accurate test to confirm or rule out Lyme disease?

2.2 PICO table

For full details, see the review protocol in appendix A.

Table 12: PICO characteristics of review question

Population	Adults (18 years and over), young people (12 to 17 years) and children (under 12 years) with a positive test for Lyme disease
Target condition	Lyme disease, specifically conditions caused by <i>Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato</i>
Index tests	<p>Serology assays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Borrelia</i> recomLine IgG (Mikrogen) • <i>Borrelia</i> ViraStripe IgM/IgG (Viramed) • C6 ELISA (Immunitics) • Diasorin LIAISON <i>Borrelia</i> IgM Quant • Enzygnost Lyme link IgG/VlsE (Siemens) • VIDAS Lyme IgM and IgG (Biomerieux) • Other assays used elsewhere in the world: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-RN-AT IgG (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-WB IgG, IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLONE-RN-AT IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> plus VlsE ELISA (IgG) & anti-<i>Borrelia</i> ELISA (IgM; Euroimmun) ○ <i>B Burgdorferi</i> IgG EIA (Diagnostic Automation) ○ <i>Borrelia</i> ViraChip IgG/IgM assay (ViraMed) ○ Capita™ B. burgdorferi IgG.IgM EIA (Trinity Biotech) ○ Genzyme Virotech <i>Borrelia</i> Europe Line (Virotech) ○ Immunoblot IgG (IGeneX) ○ MardX EU Lyme and VLSE Immunoblots (Trinity Biotech) ○ NovaLisa IgG EIA (Nova Tec) ○ Premier Lyme EIA IgG/IgM (Meridian Bioscience Inc.) ○ recomBead <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM v2.0 (Mikrogen) ○ RecomLine <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM Immunoblot (Mikrogen) ○ RecomWell <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Mikrogen) ○ SeraSpot Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Seramun Diagnostica GmbH) ○ VIR-ELISA anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (VIRO-IMMUN Labor-Diagnostika GmbH) <p>Direct microscopic visualisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biopsy/histology <p>Lymphocyte transformation tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EliSpot • LTT-MELISA® • SpiroFind™ assay (Boulder Diagnostics) <p>CD57 test</p>

	<p>Inflammatory markers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-reactive protein (CRP) • Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) <p>Full blood count:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eosinophil • Haemoglobin • Lymphocyte • Monocyte • Neutrophil/Band/ANC • Platelet • White blood cell (WBC) <p>CXCL13 (from a CSF or serum sample)</p> <p>PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis • Synovial fluid analysis
Reference standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Borrelia</i> culture (Spirochaete is difficult to culture, grows slowly, and is therefore not compatible with providing a rapid diagnostic result). • PCR • Clinical diagnosis <p>All index tests compared with all reference tests and reference tests compared with each other (in this case, clinical diagnosis will be the reference standard).</p>
Statistical measures	<p>Confirming Lyme disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specificity • Important <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sensitivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive Predictive Value ○ Negative Predictive Value ○ Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve or area under curve
Study design	<p>Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sectional studies, in which the index test(s) and the reference standard test are applied to the same people in a cross-sectional design <p>Exclude (unless there is insufficient evidence and agreed to include with committee):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-gate or case-control study designs that compare the results of the index test in people with an established diagnosis with its results in healthy controls. <p>Exclude:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case reports • Case series

1 We searched for studies assessing the diagnostic test accuracy of any of the above-
2 mentioned tests to identify whether Lyme disease is present. The search found a very large
3 number of studies because we could not define any limits for our clinical evidence search
4 without risking the omission of relevant papers. It was not possible to identify whether a study

1 provided evidence for the review question on initial tests, confirmatory tests or combination of
2 tests based on the title and abstract alone. Therefore, one search was undertaken and sifted
3 to identify the clinical evidence for all 3 review questions. The PRISMA flow-chart (appendix
4 C) and the excluded studies list (appendix I) reflect this approach in all 3 subchapters of this
5 evidence report: initial tests, confirmatory tests and combination of tests for Lyme disease.

6 **2.3 Clinical evidence**

7 **2.3.1 Included studies**

8 Five studies were included in the review; 4 case-control studies^{53,62,272,481} and 1 cross-
9 sectional study.²⁷ These are summarised in Table 13, Table 14 and Table 15 below. No
10 studies in children were identified for this review. Evidence from the included studies is
11 summarised in the clinical evidence profile below. See also the study selection flow chart in
12 appendix C, sensitivity and specificity forest plots in appendix E, study evidence tables in
13 appendix D and exclusion list in appendix I.

14 One study⁴⁸¹ also provided evidence on the number of positive results of confirmatory tests
15 following a negative initial test result. A summary is provided in Table 15 below.

16 Some studies in adults with a very wide age range also included children and young people.
17 These studies were, however, included in the evidence in adults as the mean or median age
18 of the study population was well above 18, indicating that the majority of included people
19 were adults. There were no studies specifically conducted in young people aged 12 to 17.

20 The included studies varied significantly by test, study population and clinical presentation,
21 which made it impossible to meta-analyse the large number of results. Given the general lack
22 of evidence from cross-sectional studies, which are the most robust study design for
23 diagnostic accuracy studies, case-control studies were also included in this review. The
24 committee considered the entirety of the evidence when making recommendations.

25 Three different reference standards were identified for this review: *Borrelia* culture,
26 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and clinical diagnosis. Spirochaete is difficult to culture,
27 grows slowly, and is therefore not compatible with providing a rapid diagnostic result. As a
28 result, it is rarely used as a reference standard in clinical studies. In case *Borrelia* culture or
29 PCR were used as an index test in any of the included studies, clinical diagnosis would
30 function as the reference standard.

31 Overall, the committee found the evidence difficult to interpret due to the differences within
32 and between the studies, which meant that meta-analyses were not possible. Studies varied
33 widely in populations, both cases and controls, the types of tests used, test implementation
34 and interpretation of test results. To improve comparability between results only healthy
35 controls were included in the analyses if possible.

36 **2.3.2 Excluded studies**

37 See the excluded studies list in appendix I.

38

1 **2.3.3 Summary of clinical studies included in the evidence review**

2 **Table 13: Summary of included case-control studies (adults)**

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Coyle 1993 ⁶²	n=77 Clinical evidence of <i>B burgdorferi</i> infection and neurological problems Age (mean): 34 years (3-84)	n=34 Other neurological diseases	Western blot	<i>IgG</i> Western blot	CSF	Clinical diagnosis	
Christova 2003 ⁵³	n=105 EM Age: not reported	n=90 Healthy blood donors	IFA Recombinant immunoblot	<i>IgM and IgG</i> IFA Recombinant immunoblot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Magnarelli 1992 ²⁷²	n=53 EM with antibodies (n=17) EM without antibodies (n=36) Age: not reported	n=40 Healthy persons	ELISA	<i>IgG</i> Biotin streptavidin amplified ELISA whole cells Biotin streptavidin amplified ELISA p41-G	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Trevejo 2001 ⁴⁸¹	n=74 EM With a positive initial test: Acute phase (n=28) Convalescent phase (n=43) Age: median 41 years (3-83)	n=38 Healthy controls	Western blot	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Marblot MarDx Diagnostics, USA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Acute phase sera taken a median of 4 days after illness onset (range 0-19); convalescent sera taken a median of 36 days after illness onset (range 21-161)

Table 14: Summary of included cross-sectional studies (adults)

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Blaauw 1999 ²⁷	n=105 Diagnosed or suspected chronic Lyme with musculoskeletal complaints Age (mean): 48.7 years (6-82)	Lyme disease	Western blot	<i>IgG</i> Immunoblot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Previous Lyme disease not included in the analysis as there was no reference standard

See appendix D for full evidence tables.

Table 15: Additional data

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Tests	Results	Comments
Trevejo 2001 ⁴⁸¹	n=74 EM Acute phase (n=66) Convalescent phase (n=55) Age: median 41 years (3-83)	n=38 Healthy controls	<i>IgM and IgG</i> Vidas bioMerieux, France Marblot MarDx Diagnostics, USA	Negative initial test followed by a positive confirmatory test: <u>Acute EM:</u> Initial EIA positive: 25 (37.9%) Confirmatory western blot positive: 19 (76%) Confirmatory western blot negative: 6 (24%) Initial EIA equivocal: 3 (4.5%) Confirmatory western blot positive: 2 (66.7%) Confirmatory western blot negative: 1 (33.3%) Initial EIA negative: 38 (57.6%) Confirmatory western blot positive: 4 (10.5%) Confirmatory western blot negative: 34 (89.5%)	Acute phase sera taken a median of 4 days after illness onset (range 0-19); convalescent sera taken a median of 36 days after illness onset (range 21-161) No data on convalescent phase EM reported

2 2.3.4 Quality assessment of clinical studies included in the evidence review

3 Table 16: Clinical evidence summary: confirmatory tests for Lyme disease (adults, cross-sectional studies)

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ³	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
<u>Unspecified Lyme disease: Immunoblot (IgG)</u>				

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ³	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Blaauw 1999 (serum)	22	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.69-1.00]	0.42 [0.15-0.72]

- 1) Risk of bias was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies were rated at high risk of bias and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies were rated at very high risk of bias.
- 2) Imprecision was assessed based on inspection of the confidence interval of specificity in the individual study. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment when there was a 20-40% range of the confidence interval around the point estimate and downgraded by 2 increments when there was a range of >40%.
- 3) Inconsistency could not be assessed, as the committee was unable to set a specificity threshold as an acceptable level to recommend a test. This was due to the lack of a good reference standard and the fact that studies, populations, tests and conditions were very heterogeneous.

Table 17: Clinical evidence summary: confirmatory tests for Lyme disease (adults, case-control studies)

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
<u>Erythema migrans: ELISA (IgG)</u>				
Magnarelli 1992 (recombinant; serum)	57	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.94 [0.71-1.00]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Magnarelli 1992 (whole-cell; serum)	57	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.80-1.00]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
<u>Erythema migrans: Immunoblot (IgM)</u>				
Christova 2003 (serum)	141	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.71 [0.56-0.83]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Erythema migrans: Immunoblot (IgG)</u>				
Christova 2003 (serum)	108	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.67 [0.41-0.87]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Erythema migrans: Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Trevejo 2001 (acute; serum)	104	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.75 [0.55-0.89]	0.97 [0.86-1.00]
Trevejo 2001 (convalescent; serum)	91	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.37 [0.23-0.53]	0.97 [0.86-1.00]
<u>Erythema migrans: IFA (IgM)</u>				
Christova 2003 (serum)	141	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.47 [0.33-0.62]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
<u>Erythema migrans: IFA (IgG)</u>				
Christova 2003 (serum)	108	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.83 [0.59-0.96]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Neuroborreliosis: Immunoblot (IgG)</u>				
Coyle 1993 (CSF)	33	VERY LOW ^{1,2,3} due to very serious risk of bias, serious imprecision and serious indirectness	0.55 [0.32-0.76]	1.00 [0.72-1.00]

- 1) Risk of bias was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies were rated at high risk of bias and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies were rated at very high risk of bias.
- 2) Imprecision was assessed based on inspection of the confidence intervals in the individual study. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment when there was a 20-40% range of the confidence interval around the point estimate, and downgraded by 2 increments when there was a range of >40%.
- 3) Indirectness was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist items referring to applicability. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies are seriously indirect and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies are very seriously indirect.
- 4) Inconsistency could not be assessed, as the committee was unable to set a specificity threshold as an acceptable level to recommend a test. This was due to the lack of a good reference standard and the fact that studies, populations, tests and conditions were very heterogeneous.

1 2.4 Economic evidence

2 2.4.1 Included studies

3 No relevant health economic studies were identified.

4 2.4.2 Excluded studies

5 Two economic studies relating to this review question were identified but were excluded due
6 to a combination of limited applicability and very serious methodological limitations.^{184,292}
7 These are listed in appendix I, with reasons for exclusion given.

8 See also the health economic study selection flow chart in appendix F.

9 2.4.3 Health economic exploratory analysis

10 An exploratory analysis was conducted to estimate the additional cost of 2-tier testing (ELISA
11 including C6 IgM and IgG followed by confirmatory immunoblot if ELISA is positive) over
12 initial testing only (ELISA including C6 IgM and IgG) in people with suspected Lyme disease
13 and evaluate what the cost of a misdiagnosis (either false positive or false negative) would
14 need to be for 2-tier testing to be cost-neutral. A detailed write up of this analysis is available
15 in appendix H.

16 The results of this exploratory analysis indicate that the cost of a misdiagnosis would need to
17 be between £69 and £381 (depending on data inputs used) for the 2-tier testing to be cost
18 neutral compared to initial testing only.

19 Overall, the committee considered that a misdiagnosis was very likely to cost at least £381,
20 as these people would have a number of healthcare interactions whether the misdiagnosis
21 was a false positive or a false negative. Therefore, the committee agreed that 2-tier testing is
22 very likely to be at least cost neutral compared to initial testing only and that it may even be
23 cost saving.

24 2.4.4 Unit costs

25 The following unit costs were presented to the committee to aid consideration of cost-
26 effectiveness.

27 **Table 18: NHS costs of Lyme disease tests**

Test	Unit cost (a)
C6 antigen-based ELISA (combined IgG and IgM)	£25.45
Lyme immunoblot (IgG and IgM) and ELISA (as above)	£95.56
Lyme PCR (b)	£42.23

28 *Source: Public Health England Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory, April 2016-March 2017³⁸⁵*
29 *(a) A handling fee may be added onto these published costs by local pathology laboratories.*
30 *(b) For testing joint fluid, biopsy tissue and cerebrospinal fluid.*

31 2.5 Resource impact

32 We do not expect recommendations resulting from this review area to have a significant
33 impact on resources.

1 **2.6 Evidence statements**

2 **2.6.1 Clinical evidence statements**

3 Evidence on the accuracy of confirmatory tests in confirming Lyme disease was very limited.
4 Very Low quality evidence from 3 case-control studies in adults showed a higher sensitivity
5 of IgG-specific tests compared to a test detecting IgM antibodies for confirming Lyme
6 disease in people with an erythema migrans. Specificity across the included studies was
7 generally very high although there is a risk of overestimation due to the case-control study
8 design. Very Low quality evidence from 1 cross-sectional study showed a very high
9 sensitivity, but low specificity of an IgG-specific immunoblot for confirming Lyme disease in
10 adults. The very limited evidence on combined IgM/IgG immunoblots was inconclusive.

11 No evidence in children could be identified.

12 **2.6.2 Health economic evidence statements**

13 One original exploratory analysis found that the cost of a misdiagnosis (false positive or false
14 negative) would need to be between £69 and £381 (depending on data inputs used) for 2-tier
15 testing (ELISA and immunoblot) to be cost neutral compared to initial testing only (ELISA) in
16 people with suspected Lyme disease. This analysis was assessed as partially applicable with
17 potentially serious limitations.

18

3 Combination of diagnostic tests for Lyme disease

3.1 Review question: In people with suspected (or under investigation for) Lyme disease, what is the most accurate combination of tests to identify whether Lyme disease is present?

3.2 PICO table

For full details, see the review protocol in appendix A.

Table 19: PICO characteristics of review question

Population	Adults (18 years and over), young people (12 to 17 years) and children (under 12 years) with suspected (or under investigation for) Lyme disease
Target condition	Lyme disease, specifically conditions caused by <i>Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato</i>
Index tests	<p>Any combination of the test listed below:</p> <p>Serology assays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Borrelia</i> recomLine IgG (Mikrogen) • <i>Borrelia</i> Virastripe IgM/IgG (Viramed) • C6 ELISA (Immunitics) • Diasorin LIAISON <i>Borrelia</i> IgM Quant • Enzygnost Lyme link IgG/VIsE (Siemens) • VIDAS Lyme IgM and IgG (Biomerieux) • Other assays used elsewhere in the world: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-RN-AT IgG (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-WB IgG, IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLONE-RN-AT IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> plus VIsE ELISA (IgG) & Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> ELISA (IgM; Euroimmun) ○ <i>B Burgdorferi</i> IgG EIA (Diagnostic Automation) ○ <i>Borrelia</i> ViraChip IgG/IgM assay (ViraMed) ○ Capita™ <i>B. burgdorferi</i> IgG.IgM EIA (Trinity Biotech) ○ Genzyme Virotech <i>Borrelia</i> Europe Line (Virotech) ○ Immunoblot IgG (IGeneX) ○ MardX EU Lyme and VLSE Immunoblots (Trinity Biotech) ○ NovaLisa IgG EIA (Nova Tec) ○ Premier Lyme EIA IgG/IgM (Meridian Bioscience Inc.) ○ recomBead <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM v2.0 (Mikrogen) ○ RecomLine <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM Immunoblot (Mikrogen) ○ RecomWell <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Mikrogen) ○ SeraSpot Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Seramun Diagnostica GmbH) ○ VIR-ELISA anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (VIRO-IMMUN Labor-Diagnostika GmbH) <p>Direct microscopic visualisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biopsy/histology

	<p>Lymphocyte transformation tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EliSpot • LTT-MELISA® • SpiroFind™ assay (Boulder Diagnostics) <p>CD57 test</p> <p>Inflammatory markers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-reactive protein (CRP) • Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) <p>Full blood count:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eosinophil • Haemoglobin • Lymphocyte • Monocyte • Neutrophil/Band/ANC • Platelet • White blood cell (WBC) <p>CXCL13 (from a CSF or serum sample)</p> <p>PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis • Synovial fluid analysis
<p>Reference standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Borrelia</i> culture (Spirochaete is difficult to culture and grows slowly; therefore, it is not compatible with providing a rapid diagnostic result). • Clinical diagnosis • PCR <p>All index test combinations compared with all reference tests. <i>Borrelia</i> culture or PCR can also be part of the test combinations, in which case clinical diagnosis functions as the reference standard.</p>
<p>Statistical measures</p>	<p>Detecting Lyme disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sensitivity • Important: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specificity ○ Positive Predictive Value ○ Negative Predictive Value ○ Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve or area under curve
<p>Study design</p>	<p>Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sectional studies, in which the index test(s) and the reference standard test are applied to the same people in a cross-sectional design <p>Exclude (unless there is insufficient evidence and agreed to include with the committee):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-gate or case-control study designs that compare the results of the index test in people with an established diagnosis with its results in healthy controls. <p>Exclude:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case reports

• Case series

We searched for studies assessing the diagnostic test accuracy of any of the above-mentioned tests to identify whether Lyme disease is present. The search found a very large number of studies because we could not define any limits for our clinical evidence search without risking the omission of relevant papers. It was not possible to identify whether a study provided evidence for the review question on initial tests, confirmatory tests or combination of tests based on the title and abstract alone. Therefore, one search was undertaken and sifted to identify the clinical evidence for all 3 review questions. The PRISMA flow-chart (appendix C) and the excluded studies list (appendix I) reflect this approach in all 3 subchapters of this evidence report: initial tests, confirmatory tests and combination of tests for Lyme disease.

3.3 Clinical evidence

3.3.1 Included studies

Fifteen studies (16 papers) were included in the review;^{8,17,32-34,108,139,140,190,243,307,308,364,458,481,506} these are summarised in Table 20 and Table 21: Summary of included cross-sectional studies (children)

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample
Lipsett 2016 ²⁴³	n=944 Children and adolescents undergoing serologic evaluation for Lyme disease Age (median and IQR): 10.9 (6.4-15.2) years	Lyme disease	EIA Immunoblot	Whole cell sonicate Lyme EIA (MarDx; Trinity Biotech) C6 Lyme EIA test (Immunitics) IgG and IgM Western Immunoblots (MarDx; Trinity Biotech)	Serum

below. Fourteen studies were in adults^{8,17,32-34,108,139,140,190,307,308,364,458,481,506} and 1 study was in children.²⁴³ All studies in adults and young people were of a case-control study design. The single study in children was of a cross-sectional study design. Evidence from the included studies is summarised in the clinical evidence profile below. See also the study selection flow chart in appendix C, sensitivity and specificity forest plots in appendix E, study evidence tables in appendix D and exclusion list in appendix I.

Some studies in adults with a very wide age range also included children and young people. These studies were, however, included in the evidence in adults as the mean or median age of the study population was well above 18, indicating that the majority of included people were adults. There were no studies specifically conducted in young people aged 12 to 17.

The included studies varied significantly by test, study population and clinical presentation, which made it impossible to meta-analyse the large number of results. Given the general lack of evidence from cross-sectional studies, which are the most robust study design for

1 diagnostic accuracy studies, case-control studies were also included in this review. The
2 committee considered the entirety of the evidence when making recommendations.

3 Three different reference standards were identified for this review: *Borrelia* culture,
4 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and clinical diagnosis. Spirochaete is difficult to culture and
5 grows slowly; therefore, it is not compatible with providing a rapid diagnostic result. As a
6 result, it is rarely used as a reference standard in clinical studies. In case *Borrelia* culture or
7 PCR were used as an index test in any of the included studies, clinical diagnosis would
8 function as the reference standard.

9 Overall, the committee found the evidence difficult to interpret due to the differences within
10 and between the studies, which meant that meta-analyses were not possible. Studies varied
11 widely in populations, both cases and controls, the types of tests used, test implementation
12 and interpretation of test results. To improve comparability between results only healthy
13 controls were included in the analyses if possible.

14 **3.3.2 Excluded studies**

15 See the excluded studies list in appendix I.

16

1 **3.3.3 Summary of clinical studies included in the evidence review**

2 **Table 20: Summary of included case-control studies (adults)**

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Ang 2015 ⁸	n=316 EM (n=214) Neuroborreliosis (n=102) Age: not reported	n=228 Healthy controls	EIA WB	IgM and IgG ELISA: C6-ELISA Immunitics, USA Enzygnost Siemans, Germany Western blot: RecomLine Mikrogen, Germany	Serum	ESGBOR guidelines Clinical diagnosis PCR confirmation Histopathology CSF pleocytosis	IgM and IgG equals positive result for IgM or IgG Borderline results excluded from the analysis as the study authors did not necessarily interpret them as positive evidence of infection
Bacon 2003 ¹⁷	n=280 Acute Lyme (n=80) Early convalescent (n=106) Early neurological (n=15) Early neurological convalescent (n=11) Arthritis (n=33) Arthritis convalescent (n=24)	n=257 Healthy persons	ELISA	IgM and IgG ELISA Vidas BioMerieux Vitek Marblot MarDx Diagnostics	Serum	Clinical diagnosis CDC criteria	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Late neurologic (n=11) Age: not reported						
Branda 2010 ³²	n=56 Massachusetts: Acute neuritis or carditis (n=12) Arthritis or late neuritis (n=23) Westchester: Acute neuritis or carditis (n=15) Arthritis or late neuritis (n=6) Age: not reported	n=166 Healthy controls	EIA WB	IgM and IgG VIDAS Lyme IgG and IgM BioMerieux SA Wampole <i>B burgdorferi</i> IgG/M ELISA II assay <i>Borrelia</i> B31 IgM Virablot Viramed <i>Borrelia</i> B31 IgG Birablot plus VisE Viramed	Serum	Clinical diagnosis CDC surveillance criteria for Lyme disease	
Branda 2011 ³³	n=169 EM (n=114) Acute neuritis or carditis (n=26) Arthritis or late neuritis (n=29) Age: not reported	n=1,300 Healthy controls	EIA WB	IgM and IgG VIDAS Lyme IgG and IgM BioMerieux SA Wampole <i>B burgdorferi</i> IgG/M ELISA II assay C6 <i>B burgdorferi</i>	Serum	Clinical diagnosis CDC surveillance criteria for Lyme disease	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
				ELISA Immunitics <i>Borrelia</i> B31 IgM Virablot Viramed <i>Borrelia</i> B31 IgG Birablot plus VlsE Viramed			
Branda 2013 ³⁴	n=64 Early or late Lyme disease Age: not reported	n=100 Healthy controls	ELISA IB	IgM and IgG Ezygnost Borreliosis Siemens, Germany Ezygnost Lyme Link VlsE/IgG Siemens, Germany Wampole <i>B burgdorferi</i> IgG/IgM ELISA II Alere Inc., USA C6 <i>B burgdorferi</i> Immunitics Inc., USA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis European Lyme disease criteria	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
				<i>Borrelia</i> MiQ and VlsE IgM test kit Viramed, Germany			
				<i>Borrelia</i> MiQ and VlsE IgG test kit Viramed, Germany			
				<i>Borrelia</i> B31 ViraBlot IgM test kit Viramed, Germany			
				<i>Borrelia</i> B31 and VlsE ViraBlot IgG test kit Viramed, Germany			
Fallon 2014 ¹⁰⁸	n=37 Post treatment Lyme syndrome Age (mean): 46.5 years (SD 10.5)	n=40 Healthy controls	ELISA WB	IgM and IgG C6 ELISA ELISA Western blot	Serum	Clinical diagnosis (n=37) Positive IgG western blot (n=26)	
Goossens 1999 ¹³⁹ Goossens 2000 ¹⁴⁰	n=39 Early Lyme (n=26) Late Lyme (n=13)	n=62 Healthy controls	EIA WB	IgM and IgG EIA: Behring EIA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	Age: not reported			Boehringer EIA Dako EIA Genzyme Virotech EIA IBL, EIA Milenia EIA Western blot: Genzyme Virotech WB MRL WB			
Johnson 1996 ¹⁹⁰	n=111 EM (n=58) Early neurologic (n=3) Lyme arthritis (n=36) Late neurologic (n=14) Age: not reported	n=113 Healthy blood donors	ELISA IB	IgM and IgG FLA-ELISA MarDx Diagnostics IB USA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	
Molins 2014 ³⁰⁸	n=124 Early Lyme disease with EM acute phase (n=40) Early Lyme disease	n=203 Healthy persons	EIA WB	Whole cell sonicate EIA (VIDAS Lyme IgM and IgG Polyvalent assay, bioMerieux)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Standard CDC algorithm used for ELISA (IgM and IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM and IgG) – IgG used only after 1 month

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
	with EM convalescent phase (n=38) Early disseminated Lyme carditis (n=7) Early disseminated Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=10) Late Lyme disease, LA (29)			IgM and IgG western blots (MarDx Diagnostics)			
Molins 2016 ³⁰⁷	n=124 Acute and convalescent stage (n=78) Lyme neuroborreliosis (n=10) Lyme carditis (n=7) LA (n=29) Age: not reported	n=203 Healthy donors	EIA IB	IgM and IgG VIDAS Lyme IgM and IgG polyvalent whole cell sonicate EIA (bioMerieux) <i>C6 B. burgdorferi</i> Lyme ELISA (Immunetics) Marblot IgM and IgG immunoblot assays (MarDx Diagnostics) <i>Borrelia</i> ViraStripe IgM and IgG assay (plus VIsE on the IgG immunoblot; ViraMed, Biotech AG)	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Densitometer reading taken over visual reading for VIDAS/ViraStripe combination
Peltomaa	n=47	n=86	ELISA	IgM and IgG	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
2004 ³⁶⁴	Lyme facial paralysis Age: 35 years (4-74)	Healthy subjects	WB	VlsE (IR6) peptide ELISA Western blot (MarDx)		(based on CDC criteria)	
Steere 2008 ⁴⁵⁸	n=134 EM (n=76) Acute neurologic or cardiac involvement (n=13) Arthritis or chronic neurologic involvement (n=31) Post-Lyme disease symptoms (n=14) Age: not reported	n=137 Healthy subjects	ELISA WB	IgM and IgG Sonicate ELISA VlsE C6 peptide ELISA Western blot	Serum	EM: CDC criteria and culture-positive	Reference standard: culture for people with EM, clinical diagnosis for all other presentations Positive 2-tier serology required for case inclusion of neurologic, cardiac or joint involvement Combination review: people post Lyme disease not extracted as there was no reference standard
Trevejo 2001 ⁴⁸¹	n=74 EM Acute phase (n=66) Convalescent phase (n=55) Age: median 41 years	n=38 Healthy controls	EIA WB	IgM and IgG Vidas bioMerieux, France Marblot MarDx Diagnostics, USA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Simplified approach – only equivocal results on ELISA were tested by Immunoblot

Study	Population and target condition	Control group	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Weiner 2015 ⁵⁰⁶	(3-83) n=70 Lyme with EM Acute and convalescent Lyme (n=46) Neuroborreliosis (n=10) Lyme carditis (n=6) Lyme arthritis (n=8) Age: not reported	n=32 Healthy people	ELISA IB	IgM and IgG ELISA Miniblotter45 Immunitics, USA	Serum	Clinical diagnosis	Standard CDC algorithm used for Immunoblot (IgG only after 30 days)

Table 21: Summary of included cross-sectional studies (children)

Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
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Study	Population	Target condition	Type of index test	Index test	Sample	Reference standard	Comments
Lipsett 2016 ²⁴³	n=944 Children and adolescents undergoing serologic evaluation for Lyme disease Age (median and IQR): 10.9 (6.4-15.2) years	Lyme disease	EIA Immunoblot	Whole cell sonicate Lyme EIA (MarDx; Trinity Biotech) C6 Lyme EIA test (Immunetics) IgG and IgM Western Immunoblots (MarDx; Trinity Biotech)	Serum	Clinician-diagnosed EM or a positive 2-tiered serologic result in the presence of a Lyme disease-associated clinical syndrome	Unclear what proportion of people with Lyme disease were clinically diagnosed versus seropositive and Lyme disease associated syndrome

See appendix D for full evidence tables.

3.3.4 Quality assessment of clinical studies included in the evidence review

Table 22: Clinical evidence summary: combination of tests for Lyme disease (adults, case-control studies)

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Erythema migrans: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015	148	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.69 [0.55-0.80]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (acute disseminated EM)	295	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.33-0.67]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (acute single EM)	299	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.26 [0.14-0.42]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (early convalescent disseminated)	303	VERY LOW ¹	0.72 [0.57-0.84]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
EM)		due to very serious risk of bias		
Bacon 2003 (early convalescent single EM)	317	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.63 [0.50-0.75]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2011	1414	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.42 [0.33-0.52]	0.99 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (European tests)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.55 [0.32-0.77]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Branda 2013 (US tests)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.20 [0.06-0.44]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Johnson 1996 (disseminated EM; FLA-ELISA and Immunoblot)	121	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.63-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Johnson 1996 (localised EM; FLA-ELISA and Immunoblot)	163	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.58 [0.43-0.72]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2014 (EM acute phase)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.40 [0.25-0.57]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2014 (EM convalescent phase)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.61 [0.43-0.64]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (EM acute)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.47 [0.32-0.64]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Molins 2016 (EM convalescent)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.63 [0.46-0.78]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Steere 2008 (EM acute with dissemination)	178	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.27-0.59]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Steere 2008 (EM acute without dissemination)	174	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.17 [0.06-0.33]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Steere 2008 (EM convalescent no dissemination)	174	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.53 [0.35-0.70]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Steere 2008 (EM convalescent with dissemination)	178	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.75 [0.59-0.87]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Tevejo 2001 (acute phase simplified approach)	103	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.41 [0.29-0.54]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Trevejo 2001 (acute phase; CDC approach)	103	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.32 [0.21-0.44]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Trevejo 2001 (convalescent phase CDC approach)	92	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.29 [0.18-0.43]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Trevejo 2001 (convalescent; simplified approach)	92	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.71 [0.57-0.82]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Weiner 2015 (EM acute phase)	55	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.30 [0.13-0.53]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Weiner 2015 (EM convalescent phase)	55	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.78 [0.56-0.93]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Erythema migrans: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015	170	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.64 [0.51-0.75]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Branda 2013 (US tests)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.20 [0.06-0.44]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (EM acute C6 and Marblot Immunoblot)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.40 [0.25-0.57]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (EM acute C6 and ViraStripe Immunoblot)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.27-0.59]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2016 (EM convalescent C6 and Marblot Immunoblot)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.63 [0.46-0.78]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (EM convalescent C6 and ViraStripe Immunoblot)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.63 [0.46-0.78]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Erythema migrans: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6				
Branda 2011	1414	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.53 [0.43-0.62]	0.99 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (US tests)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.65 [0.41-0.85]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (EM acute)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.50 [0.34-0.66]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2016 (EM convalescent)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.79 [0.63-0.90]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Erythema migrans: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (VIsE)				
Molins 2016 (EM acute)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.48 [0.32-0.64]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2016 (EM convalescent)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.74 [0.57-0.87]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Erythema migrans: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)				
Molins 2014 (EM acute phase)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.30 [0.17-0.47]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2014 (EM convalescent phase)	241	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.53 [0.36-0.69]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Steere 2008 (EM acute with dissemination)	177	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.38 [0.23-0.54]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Steere 2008 (EM acute without dissemination)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.11 [0.03-0.26]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Steere 2008 (EM convalescent no dissemination)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.39 [0.23-0.57]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Steere 2008 (EM convalescent with dissemination)	177	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.70 [0.53-0.83]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Weiner 2015 (EM acute phase)	23	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.30 [0.13-0.53]	Not estimable

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Weiner 2015 (EM convalescent phase)	55	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.70 [0.47-0.87]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Erythema migrans: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)				
Molins 2014 (EM acute phase)	243	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.20 [0.09-0.36]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2014 (EM convalescent phase)	237	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.34 [0.20-0.51]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Steere 2008 (EM acute with dissemination)	177	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.15 [0.06-0.30]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Steere 2008 (EM acute without dissemination)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.06 [0.01-0.19]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Steere 2008 (EM convalescent no dissemination)	173	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.17 [0.06-0.33]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Steere 2008 (EM convalescent with dissemination)	177	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.20 [0.09-0.36]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Weiner 2015 (EM acute phase)	55	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.00-0.22]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Weiner 2015 (EM convalescent phase)	55	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.30 [0.13-0.53]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015	120	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.97 [0.83-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (early neurologic convalescent)	268	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.82 [0.48-0.98]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (early neurologic)	272	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.87 [0.60-0.98]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Bacon 2003 (late neurologic)	268	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.72-1.00]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (European tests)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.87 [0.60-0.98]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Branda 2013 (US tests)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.40 [0.16-0.68]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Johnson 1996 (early neurologic; FLA-ELISA and Immunoblot)	116	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.29-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Johnson 1996 (Late neurologic; FLA-ELISA and Immunoblot)	127	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2014	215	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2016	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.80 [0.44-0.97]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Peltomaa 2004 (facial paralysis)	135	VERY LOW ^{1,2} due to very serious risk of bias and serious indirectness	1.00 [0.92-1.00]	0.98 [0.92-1.00]
Weiner 2015	42	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Ang 2015	155	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.92 [0.81-0.98]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Branda 2013 (US tests)	120	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.30 [0.12-0.54]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (C6 and Marblot Immunoblot)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (C6 and ViraStripe Immunoblot)	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6				
Branda 2013 (US tests)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.87 [0.60-0.98]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)				
Molins 2014	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Weiner 2015	42	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)				
Molins 2014	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.30 [0.07-0.65]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Weiner 2015	42	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.40 [0.12-0.74]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Neuroborreliosis: ELISA (WCS and Immunoblot (VIsE)				

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Molins 2016	213	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.90 [0.55-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Lyme arthritis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Bacon 2003 (arthritis convalescent)	281	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.96 [0.79-1.00]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Bacon 2003 (arthritis)	290	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.97 [0.84-1.00]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (European tests)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.93 [0.68-1.00]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Branda 2013 (US tests)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.60 [0.32-0.84]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Johnson 1996 (LA; FLA-ELISA and Immunoblot)	149	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.90-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2014	234	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2016	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.97 [0.82-1.00]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Weiner 2015	40	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.63-1.00]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Lyme arthritis: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Branda 2013 (US tests)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.67 [0.38-0.88]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (C6 and Marblot Immunoblot)	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (C6 and ViraStripe Immunoblot)	232	VERY LOW ¹	0.97 [0.82-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
<u>Lyme arthritis: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6</u>				
Branda 2013 (US tests)	115	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.93 [0.68-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
<u>Lyme arthritis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)</u>				
Molins 2014	232	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.31 [0.15-0.51]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Weiner 2015	40	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.13 [0.00-0.53]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
<u>Lyme arthritis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)</u>				
Molins 2014	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Weiner 2015	40	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.63-1.00]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
<u>Lyme arthritis: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (VIsE)</u>				
Molins 2016	232	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
<u>Lyme carditis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Molins 2014	212	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.86 [0.42-1.00]	0.99 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2016	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	1.00 [0.59-1.00]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Weiner 2015	38	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.83 [0.36-1.00]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
<u>Lyme carditis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)</u>				
Molins 2014	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.57 [0.18-0.90]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Weiner 2015	38	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.67 [0.22-0.96]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
<u>Lyme carditis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)</u>				
Molins 2014	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.57 [0.18-0.90]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Weiner 2015	38	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.50 [0.12-0.88]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
<u>Lyme carditis: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6</u>				
Molins 2016	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.86 [0.42-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
<u>Lyme carditis: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (VIsE)</u>				
Molins 2016	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.86 [0.42-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
<u>Lyme carditis: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Molins 2016 (C6 and Marblot Immunoblot)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and very serious imprecision	0.86 [0.42-1.00]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (C6 and ViraStripe Immunoblot)	210	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.86 [0.42-1.00]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
		very serious imprecision		
<u>Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Branda 2013 (European tests)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Branda 2013 (US tests)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6</u>				
Branda 2013 (US tests)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Branda 2013 (US tests)	114	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.77-1.00]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Acute neuritis/carditis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)</u>				
Branda 2010	193	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.63 [0.42-0.81]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Branda 2011	1326	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.73 [0.52-0.88]	0.99 [0.99-1.00]
Steere 2008	151	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	1.00 [0.75-1.00]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
<u>Acute neuritis/carditis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and VIsE band</u>				
Branda 2010	193	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.96 [0.81-1.00]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
<u>Acute neuritis/carditis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG with VIsE band)</u>				
Branda 2010	193	VERY LOW ¹	0.96 [0.81-1.00]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Acute neuritis/carditis: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6				
Branda 2011	1326	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.87-1.00]	0.99 [0.99-1.00]
Acute neurologic/cardiac: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)				
Steere 2008	150	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.85 [0.55-0.98]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Acute neurologic/cardiac: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)				
Steere 2008	150	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.85 [0.55-0.98]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Arthritis/late neuritis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Branda 2010	195	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Branda 2011	1329	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.99 [0.99-1.00]
Steere 2008	169	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.89-1.00]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Arthritis/late neuritis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and VIsE band				
Branda 2010	195	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.97 [0.82-1.00]	1.00 [0.98-1.00]
Arthritis/late neuritis: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG with VIsE band)				
Branda 2010	195	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Arthritis/late neuritis: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6				
Branda 2011	1329	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.88-1.00]	0.99 [0.99-1.00]
Lyme arthritis/chronic neurologic: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)				

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Steere 2008	168	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.23 [0.10-0.41]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Lyme arthritis/chronic neurologic: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)</u>				
Steere 2008	168	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	1.00 [0.89-1.00]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
<u>Early Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM) and Immunoblot (IgM)</u>				
Goossens 1999 (Behring EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.27-0.67]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Behring EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.27-0.67]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Boehringer and Genzyme Virotech)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.31 [0.14-0.52]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Boehringer EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.35 [0.17-0.56]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Dako EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.35 [0.17-0.56]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Dako EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.42 [0.23-0.63]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Genzyme Virotech EIA and GV IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.50 [0.30-0.70]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Genzyme Virotech EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.27-0.67]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (IBL EIA and Genzyme Virotech	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3}	0.35 [0.17-0.56]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
IB)		due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision		
Goossens 1999 (IBL EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.27-0.67]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Early Lyme disease: ELISA (IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)				
Goossens 1999 (Behring EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.23 [0.09-0.44]	0.94 [0.84-0.98]
Goossens 1999 (Behring EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.00-0.20]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Boehringer and Genzyme Virotech)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.15 [0.04-0.35]	0.94 [0.84-0.98]
Goossens 1999 (Boehringer EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.00-0.20]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Dako EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.19 [0.07-0.39]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Dako EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.00-0.20]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Genzyme Virotech EIA and GV IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.19 [0.07-0.39]	0.95 [0.87-0.99]
Goossens 1999 (Genzyme Virotech EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.00-0.20]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (IBL EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	88	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.15 [0.04-0.35]	0.94 [0.84-0.98]
Goossens 1999 (IBL EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.00-0.20]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Early Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)				
Goossens 1999 (Milenia EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.12 [0.02-0.30]	0.95 [0.87-0.99]
Goossens 1999 (Milenia EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.00-0.20]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Early Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)				
Goossens 1999 (Milenia EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.12 [0.02-0.30]	0.95 [0.87-0.99]
Goossens 1999 (Milenia EIA and MRL IB)	88	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.04 [0.00-0.20]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Late Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM) and Immunoblot (IgM)				
Goossens 1999 (Behring EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.14-0.68]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Behring EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Boehringer and Genzyme Virotech)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.31 [0.09-0.61]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Boehringer EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Dako EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.14-0.68]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Dako EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Genzyme Virotech EIA and GV IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and	0.38 [0.14-0.68]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
		serious imprecision		
Goossens 1999 (Genzyme Virotech EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (IBL EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.31 [0.09-0.61]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (IBL EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.14-0.68]	1.00 [0.94-1.00]
Late Lyme disease: ELISA (IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)				
Goossens 1999 (Behring EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	0.94 [0.84-0.98]
Goossens 1999 (Behring EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.14-0.68]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Boehringer and Genzyme Virotech)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	0.94 [0.84-0.98]
Goossens 1999 (Boehringer EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.14-0.68]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Dako EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.14-0.68]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Dako EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.14-0.68]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (Genzyme Virotech EIA and GV IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.14-0.68]	0.95 [0.87-0.98]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Goossens 1999 (Genzyme Virotech EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.38 [0.14-0.68]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Goossens 1999 (IBL EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.31 [0.09-0.61]	0.94 [0.84-0.98]
Goossens 1999 (IBL EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.31 [0.09-0.61]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Late Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)				
Goossens 1999 (Milenia EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.15 [0.02-0.45]	0.95 [0.87-0.99]
Goossens 1999 (Milenia EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.08 [0.00-0.36]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Late Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)				
Goossens 1999 (Milenia EIA and Genzyme Virotech IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	0.95 [0.87-0.99]
Goossens 1999 (Milenia EIA and MRL IB)	75	VERY LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias and serious imprecision	0.46 [0.19-0.75]	0.97 [0.89-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Bacon 2003	537	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.62-0.73]	1.00 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2011	1469	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.57 [0.49-0.64]	0.99 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (European tests)	164	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.81 [0.70-0.90]	0.99 [0.95-1.00]
Branda 2013 (US tests)	164	VERY LOW ¹	0.52 [0.39-0.64]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
		due to very serious risk of bias		
Johnson 1996 (unspecified Lyme disease; FLA-ELISA and IB)	224	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.81 [0.73-0.88]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Molins 2014	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.67 [0.58-0.75]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.69 [0.60-0.77]	0.98 [0.95-0.99]
Weiner 2015	102	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.67 [0.55-0.78]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)				
Weiner 2015	102	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.53 [0.41-0.65]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)				
Weiner 2015	102	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.33 [0.22-0.45]	1.00 [0.89-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Branda 2013 (US tests)	164	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.53 [0.40-0.66]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (C6 and Marblot IB)	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.59-0.76]	0.99 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016 (C6 and ViraStripe IB)	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.59-0.76]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6				
Branda 2011	1469	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.68 [0.60-0.75]	0.99 [0.99-1.00]
Branda 2013 (US tests)	164	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.84 [0.73-0.92]	1.00 [0.96-1.00]
Molins 2016	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.76 [0.67-0.83]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (ViSE)				
Molins 2016	327	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.73 [0.65-0.81]	1.00 [0.97-1.00]
Post-treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome: ELISA and Immunoblot (IgG)				
Fallon 2014 (commercial lab)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.41 [0.25-0.58]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab A)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.38 [0.22-0.55]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab B)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.43 [0.27-0.61]	0.98 [0.87-1.00]
Fallon 2014 (University reference lab)	69	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.49 [0.32-0.66]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Post-treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgG)				
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab A)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.41 [0.25-0.58]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab B)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.46 [0.29-0.63]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Post-treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome: ELISA and ELISA C6				
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab A)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.59 [0.42-0.75]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]
Fallon 2014 (speciality lab B)	77	VERY LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.49 [0.32-0.66]	1.00 [0.91-1.00]

- 1) Risk of bias was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies were rated at high risk of bias and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies were rated at very high risk of bias.
- 2) Indirectness was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist items referring to applicability. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies are seriously indirect and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies are very seriously indirect.
- 3) Imprecision was assessed based on inspection of the confidence region of sensitivity in the in the individual study. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment when there was a 20-40% range of the confidence interval around the point estimate, and downgraded by 2 increments when there was a range of >40%.
- 4) Inconsistency could not be assessed, as the committee was unable to set a sensitivity threshold as an acceptable level to recommend a test. This was due to the lack of a good reference standard and the fact that studies, populations, tests and conditions were very heterogeneous.

Table 23: Clinical evidence summary: combination of tests for Lyme disease (children, cross-sectional studies)

Index Test (Threshold)	n	Quality ⁴	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Lipsett 2016 (serum)	944	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.78 [0.69-0.85]	0.99 [0.97-0.99]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6				
Lipsett 2016 (serum)	944	LOW ¹ due to very serious risk of bias	0.80 [0.71-0.87]	0.97 [0.95-0.98]
Unspecified Lyme disease: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)				
Lipsett 2016 (serum)	944	LOW ^{1,3} due to very serious risk of bias	0.82 [0.73-0.88]	0.99 [0.98-0.99]

- 1) Risk of bias was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies were rated at high risk of bias and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies were rated at very high risk of bias.
- 2) Indirectness was assessed using the QUADAS-2 checklist items referring to applicability. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of studies are seriously indirect, and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of studies are very seriously indirect.
- 3) Imprecision was assessed based on inspection of the confidence region of sensitivity in the in the individual study. The evidence was downgraded by 1 increment when there was a 20-40% range of the confidence interval around the point estimate and downgraded by 2 increments when there was a range of >40%.
- 4) 4 Inconsistency could not be assessed, as the committee was unable to set a sensitivity threshold as an acceptable level to recommend a test. This was due to the lack of a good reference standard and the fact that studies, populations, tests and conditions were very heterogeneous.

1 3.4 Economic evidence

2 3.4.1 Included studies

3 No relevant health economic studies were identified.

4 3.4.2 Excluded studies

5 Two economic studies relating to this review question were identified but were excluded due
6 combination of applicability and very serious methodological limitations.^{184,292} These are
7 listed in appendix I, with reasons for exclusion given.

8 See also the health economic study selection flow chart in appendix F.

9 3.4.3 Health economic exploratory analysis

10 An exploratory analysis was conducted to estimate the additional cost of 2-tier testing (ELISA
11 including C6 IgM and IgG followed by confirmatory immunoblot if ELISA was positive) over
12 initial testing only (ELISA including C6 IgM and IgG) in people with suspected Lyme disease
13 and evaluate what the cost of a misdiagnosis (either false positive or false negative) would
14 need to be for 2-tier testing to be cost-neutral. A detailed write up of this analysis is available
15 in appendix H.

16 The results of this exploratory analysis indicate that the cost of a misdiagnosis would need to
17 be between £69 and £381 (depending on data inputs used) for the 2-tier testing to be cost
18 neutral compared to initial testing only.

19 Overall, the committee considered that a misdiagnosis was very likely to cost at least £381,
20 as these people would have a number of healthcare interactions whether the misdiagnosis
21 was a false positive or a false negative. Therefore, the committee agreed that 2-tier testing is
22 very likely to be at least cost neutral compared to initial testing only, and it may even be cost
23 saving.

24 3.4.4 Unit costs

25 The following unit costs were presented to the committee to aid consideration of cost-
26 effectiveness.

27 **Table 24: NHS costs of Lyme disease tests**

Test	Unit cost (a)
C6 antigen-based ELISA (combined IgG and IgM)	£25.45
Lyme immunoblot (IgG and IgM) and ELISA (as above)	£95.56
Lyme PCR(b)	£42.23

28 *Source: Public Health England Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory, April 2016-March 2017.³⁸⁵*

29 *(a) A handling fee may be added onto these published costs by local pathology laboratories.*

30 *(b) For testing joint fluid, biopsy tissue and cerebrospinal fluid.*

31 3.5 Resource impact

32 We do not expect recommendations resulting from this review area to have a significant
33 impact on resources.

1 **3.6 Evidence statements**

2 **3.6.1 Clinical evidence statements**

3 Overall, the evidence was of Very Low quality due to the case-control study design, risk of
4 bias and imprecision. The included studies varied significantly by test and test combinations,
5 study population and clinical presentation. It was not possible to meta-analyse the large
6 number of results because studies with comparable test combinations differed in how clinical
7 presentations were reported, how tests were conducted and analysed and how the test
8 results were interpreted.

9 Very Low quality evidence from 14 case-control studies in adults showed that a combination
10 of ELISAs and immunoblots where both tests detect both IgM and IgG antibodies had the
11 highest coupled sensitivity and specificity for detecting and confirming Lyme disease. Overall
12 sensitivity of test combinations increased with disease progression.

13 Although tests that are less frequently used in clinical practice, such as C6 or WCS ELISAs,
14 also showed a relatively high sensitivity, there was considerably higher variance around the
15 point estimates and the point estimates of these less frequently used tests were mostly lower
16 than for combined IgM/IgG ELISAs.

17 Low quality evidence from 1 cross-sectional study in children showed similarly high
18 sensitivity and specificity point estimates for C6 and WCS ELISAs in combination with
19 IgM/IgG immunoblots for detecting and confirming Lyme disease. No evidence in widely
20 used combined IgM/IgG ELISAs in children was, however, identified.

21 Nearly all of the identified evidence showed a specificity of 99% to 100%.

22 **3.6.2 Health economic evidence statements**

23 One original exploratory analysis found that the cost of a misdiagnosis (false positive or false
24 negative) would need to be between £69 and £381 (depending on data inputs used) for 2-tier
25 testing (ELISA and immunoblot) to be cost neutral compared to initial testing only (ELISA) in
26 people with suspected Lyme disease. This analysis was assessed as partially applicable with
27 potentially serious limitations.

4 Recommendations

- 1
2 C1. Diagnose and treat Lyme disease without laboratory testing in people with erythema
3 migrans.
- 4 C2. Offer testing if there is a clinical suspicion of Lyme disease, using an enzyme-linked
5 immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for Lyme disease that tests for both IgM and IgG
6 antibodies and is based on C6 peptide or an equivalent purified or synthetic VlsE
7 antigen.
- 8 C3. If the ELISA is positive or equivocal, offer an immunoblot test to confirm diagnosis of
9 Lyme disease.
- 10 C4. If the ELISA for Lyme disease is negative and the person still has symptoms, review their
11 history and symptoms again, and consider whether an alternative diagnosis is likely.
- 12 C5. For people with a negative ELISA who were tested within 4 weeks from symptom onset,
13 consider repeating the ELISA 4 to 6 weeks after the first ELISA test if Lyme disease is
14 still suspected.
- 15 C6. For people with a negative ELISA who have had symptoms for 12 weeks or more and
16 Lyme disease is still suspected:
- 17 • repeat the ELISA **and**
 - 18 • perform an immunoblot test.
- 19 C7. Consider treatment with antibiotics (see evidence reports D–L) before test results
20 become available if there is a high probability that the person has Lyme disease.
- 21 C8. If Lyme disease is confirmed with ELISA and immunoblot tests, and the person has focal
22 symptoms, consider a discussion with or referral to an infectious disease specialist or a
23 specialist appropriate for the person's symptoms (for example, an adult or paediatric
24 rheumatologist), without delaying treatment.
- 25 C9. If ELISA and immunoblot tests are negative but unexplained symptoms persist, consider
26 a discussion with or referral to an infectious disease specialist or a specialist appropriate
27 for the person's symptoms (for example, an adult or paediatric rheumatologist) to:
- 28 • review whether further tests may be needed for suspected Lyme disease, for example
29 synovial fluid aspirate or biopsy, or lumbar puncture for cerebrospinal fluid analysis **or**
 - 30 • consider alternative diagnoses.
- 31 C10. Be aware that people, particularly those living in high-prevalence areas, may have
32 positive serology but do not have Lyme disease because antibodies can remain in the
33 body for some years.
- 34 C11. Carry out tests for Lyme disease only at NHS-accredited laboratories that:
- 35 • use validated tests (validation should include published evidence on the test
36 methodology, its relation to Lyme disease and independent reports of performance)
 - 37 • participate in a formal external quality assurance programme.
- 38 C12. When tests have been done in laboratories that do not fulfil the criteria in
39 recommendation C11, do not diagnose Lyme disease, but carry out testing again using
40 an NHS-accredited laboratory.

4.1.1 Information about tests for Lyme disease

- 41 C13. Discuss with the person the accuracy and limitations of the different tests for diagnosing
42 Lyme disease.
43

- 1 C14. Explain to people being tested that most tests for Lyme disease assess for the
2 presence of an immune response (antibodies) to borreliosis infection, and that the
3 accuracy of blood tests may be reduced if:
- 4 • testing is carried out too early (before antibodies have developed)
 - 5 • the person has reduced immunity, which might affect the development of antibodies,
6 for example people on immunosuppressant treatments.
- 7 C15. Advise people that tests available privately (including from overseas) may not have
8 been fully evaluated or meet the standards needed to diagnose Lyme disease.
- 9 C16. Discuss with people who may have Lyme disease that:
- 10 • the symptoms and signs associated with Lyme disease are similar to those for other
11 conditions
 - 12 • symptoms such as tiredness, headache and muscle pain are common and a specific
13 medical cause is often not found.

14 4.2 Research recommendations

- 15 RR1. What is the most clinically and cost effective serological antibody-based test, biomarker
16 (such as CXCL13), lymphocyte transformation and ELISPOT for diagnosing Lyme in
17 the UK at all stages, including reinfection?
- 18 RR2. What is the current seroprevalence of Lyme disease-specific antibodies and other tick-
19 borne infections (such as babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, bartonellosis or Q
20 fever) in people in the UK when performed using UK-accredited assays (ELISA based
21 on C6 antigen and immunoblot)?
- 22 See also the rationales in appendix J.

23 4.3 Rationale and impact

24 4.3.1 Why the committee made the recommendations

25 Many symptoms associated with Lyme disease have more common causes, so testing is
26 helpful to ensure accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

27 The majority of Lyme disease tests rely on examination of blood for presence of antibodies
28 and need careful interpretation alongside clinical assessment.

29 There is uncertainty over which test or combination of tests are most helpful in diagnosing
30 Lyme disease. The committee agreed that initial testing with a combination IgM and IgG
31 ELISA for Lyme disease should be offered because the evidence generally showed better
32 accuracy (both sensitivity and specificity) for combined tests compared to IgM-only and IgG-
33 only tests. There was evidence that tests based on the C6 synthetic peptide or validated sets
34 of purified antigens have a relatively high degree of sensitivity for detecting people with Lyme
35 disease so this was also specified in the recommendation to provide greater accuracy and
36 consistency across results.

37 If the initial ELISA test is positive or equivocal, the committee agreed that an immunoblot test
38 should be offered to confirm diagnosis. The evidence suggested that the combination of
39 initial IgM and IgG ELISA and confirmatory IgM and IgG immunoblot testing had a high
40 sensitivity and specificity, particularly for Lyme arthritis, Lyme carditis and acrodermatitis
41 chronica atrophicans.

42 For people with a negative ELISA result who continue to have symptoms clinical review is
43 recommended to ensure that alternative diagnoses are not missed. Since antibodies take

1 some time to develop repeat testing is recommended for people who may have had the initial
2 test too early, before an immune response has developed. If symptoms have been present
3 for 12 weeks, the committee agreed that the ELISA may be repeated and an immunoblot
4 should be carried out, which will help rule out or confirm diagnosis where uncertainty still
5 remains.

6 Because of the limitations of tests for Lyme disease the committee also agreed that people
7 with negative test results who continue to have symptoms might be discussed with or
8 referred to an infectious disease specialist or a specialist appropriate for the person's
9 symptoms to review whether further tests are needed or to consider alternative diagnoses.

10 Diagnostic tests should be validated before they are used to diagnose Lyme disease as
11 otherwise tests may yield unreliable and misleading results, which may lead to misdiagnosis.
12 The committee agreed that testing should be done in NHS-accredited laboratories.

13 The committee agreed that *Borrelia* infection does not behave differently in children than
14 adults, but acknowledged that a young child's immune responses might not be as rapid and
15 effective. The limited evidence in children did not show a noticeable difference in test
16 accuracy compared to adults.

17 **4.3.2 Impact of the recommendations on practice**

18 A 2-tiered testing system is used in current practice, in which a positive result on an initial
19 ELISA leads to a confirmatory immunoblot test. A negative result on an initial ELISA would
20 not usually lead to a confirmatory immunoblot test. Therefore, the recommendation to repeat
21 the ELISA and carry out an immunoblot test, despite an initial negative ELISA when there is
22 clinical suspicion of Lyme disease would be a change to practice and increase the number of
23 people receiving these tests. However, this would only apply to a small population, so this
24 recommendation is not likely to have a significant resource impact.

25 **4.4 The committee's discussion of the evidence**

26 **4.4.1 Interpreting the evidence**

27 **4.4.1.1 The diagnostic measures that matter most**

28 Diagnostic accuracy studies where the accuracy of a given test for Lyme disease was
29 measured against a reference standard (*Borrelia* culture, polymerase chain reaction, clinical
30 diagnosis) were used in this review. Tests commonly performed are designed to assess
31 immunological response to the presence of *Borrelia*.

32 Current practice includes 2-tier testing, where a sensitive initial test is performed first and
33 followed by a specific confirmatory test in case of a positive initial test result. In first-line
34 testing, a test with a high sensitivity is preferred in order to reduce the number of false
35 negative test results, that is, the number of people with Lyme disease who incorrectly
36 received a negative test result. A confirmatory test is required to show a high specificity,
37 indicating that false positive test results in people without Lyme disease are few. Therefore,
38 the committee considered sensitivity the most important measure for the assessment of
39 diagnostic test accuracy of initial tests and test combinations. For the accuracy of
40 confirmatory tests, they considered specificity the most important measure.

41 Sensitivity and specificity were prioritised over positive predictive value and negative
42 predictive value because they are intrinsic to the test and do not depend on the prevalence of
43 Lyme disease.

44 The overwhelming majority of evidence presented in this report was for initial tests for Lyme
45 disease, particularly on ELISA tests and immunoblots. There was a general lack of evidence

1 on confirmatory tests with the 4 included studies providing data only on the clinical
2 presentations of erythema chronicum migrans, neuroborreliosis and unspecified Lyme
3 disease. Although the review on test combinations identified evidence for all clinical
4 presentations of Lyme disease, the majority of the evidence identified was on the
5 combination of an initial ELISA test followed by a confirmatory immunoblot. There was little
6 evidence on any of the other tests listed in the protocol.

7 **4.4.1.2 The quality of the evidence**

8 Cross-sectional studies and case-control studies for children and adults were included in this
9 review. The majority of the evidence was from case-control studies and was of very low
10 quality because of risk of bias, study design and imprecision. There were particular concerns
11 about the selection of people, the lack of blinding, the limited information on the index tests,
12 and the inadequate reference standard. Many studies were of US populations or were old
13 studies using discontinued tests. No studies were on UK populations. There is a strong
14 potential of the results being an overestimate of the true sensitivity and specificity values due
15 to the way case-control studies are conducted. Populations in case-control studies tend to
16 differ from 'true populations' found in clinical practice as cases tend to be more severely ill
17 than the average patient population in clinical practice in order to fit inclusion criteria of
18 studies. Controls, on the other hand, are usually drawn from a healthy population or include
19 known specific cross-reactivity controls.

20 The evidence from cross-sectional studies was of low to very low quality. This was mainly
21 due to issues around the index tests and reference standards. Similarly to the case-control
22 studies, the majority of cross-sectional studies did not provide sufficient information on the
23 tests used. There were also concerns about the lack of blinding. Many of the included studies
24 were small and included samples from less than 100 participants. The evidence on tests
25 other than ELISA or immunoblot was often based on single studies. The committee
26 acknowledged these study limitations when discussing the evidence.

27 **4.4.1.3 Benefits and harms**

28 The committee found the evidence difficult to interpret due to the differences within and
29 between the studies, which meant that meta-analyses were not possible. Studies varied
30 widely in populations, both cases and controls, the types of tests used, test implementation
31 and interpretation of test results.

32 Evidence from 2 cross-sectional studies suggested that 'modern' ELISAs—tests based on
33 the C6 or validated sets of purified antigens—have a relatively high degree of sensitivity for
34 detecting Lyme disease in people with neuroborreliosis. Other types of ELISAs do not
35 include highly immunogenic antigens, such as C6, which cause an early antibody response
36 useful for diagnostic testing. The committee therefore noted that evidence for modern types
37 of ELISAs could not necessarily be extrapolated to other types of ELISAs.

38 The committee considered evidence from studies on people with unspecified Lyme disease
39 symptoms, or those reporting diagnostic accuracy data for people with different combinations
40 of presentations to be the most difficult to interpret. This was because the time between the
41 point of infection and the test, which can affect the test result, was likely to be very
42 heterogeneous.

43 The evidence suggested that the combination of initial combined IgM and IgG/ELISA and
44 confirmatory IgM and IgG immunoblot testing had a high sensitivity and specificity,
45 particularly for Lyme arthritis, Lyme carditis and acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans. Only 1
46 of the studies in Lyme arthritis was conducted in a European setting. All studies in Lyme
47 carditis and acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans were conducted in the US.

1 For initial tests, the evidence generally showed better sensitivity and specificity results for
2 combined IgM and IgG tests for different clinical presentations of Lyme disease compared to
3 IgM-only and IgG-only tests. There was no clear advantage of ELISA tests over immunoblots
4 or vice versa for any clinical presentation.

5 The analyses by time point did not show any clear advantage of 1 test over the other. IgM
6 tests tended to have a higher sensitivity in the early stages of Lyme disease, such as the EM
7 rash, and a lower sensitivity in later stages of Lyme disease. By contrast, the sensitivity of
8 IgG test increased with disease progression. This is in keeping with the general
9 understanding of how an immunological response to infection develops.

10 There was a general lack of evidence on confirmatory tests. Evidence from 3 case-control
11 studies showed a higher sensitivity of IgG-specific tests compared to IgM-specific tests for
12 confirming Lyme disease in people with an EM rash. Specificity across the studies was
13 generally high although there is a risk of overestimation due to the case-control study design.

14 The committee discussed the value of diagnostic tests for neuroborreliosis using CSF
15 samples. It was suggested that the decision to perform a lumbar puncture might depend on
16 whether the person lives in an area where Lyme disease is more common, where a positive
17 serology may not necessarily indicate an active infection. However, the evidence was not
18 strong enough to inform a recommendation.

19 Evidence from a relatively small number of studies suggested a high sensitivity and high
20 specificity of CXCL13 levels for diagnosing neuroborreliosis. The committee did not consider
21 the quality or quantity of the evidence to be strong enough to inform a recommendation. The
22 value of CXCL13, a biological marker that is not specific to Lyme disease, in helping to build
23 a diagnosis was discussed. The committee also considered the apparent trend towards a
24 good diagnostic accuracy of CXCL13 for neuroborreliosis and recommended that further
25 research on this test should be undertaken.

26 *Borrelia* culture and polymerase chain reaction are considered the best diagnostic tests for
27 Lyme disease and were used as reference standards in the evidence review. The tests,
28 however, showed relatively low sensitivity and specificity when compared with clinical
29 diagnosis. The committee noted that the relatively low-test accuracy could be due to a
30 sampling error, as the bacteria may not exist in the entirety of the sample taken; for example,
31 an aspirate of joint fluid may not grow *Borrelia* as the organisms may be localised to the
32 synovium.

33 4.4.2 Cost effectiveness and resource use

34 No relevant health economic studies were identified for diagnostic tests. The unit costs from
35 Public Health England's national laboratory (Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory,
36 RIPL) for the C6 IgG and IgM combination ELISA and IgG and IgM immunoblot were
37 presented to the committee. The C6 ELISA costs £25.45 and the combined C6 ELISA and
38 immunoblot costs £95.56. It was noted that the local pathology laboratories might add a
39 handling fee to these costs. Furthermore, the initial C6 ELISA may be done locally where the
40 equipment is already available for other purposes.

41 The committee recommended that the diagnosis for those presenting with erythema migrans
42 should be made without laboratory testing, as the rash is very specific to Lyme disease and
43 the benefits of prompt treatment outweigh the potential harms in waiting for a positive test.
44 Furthermore, this is current practice in the NHS and is not considered to have any resource
45 impact.

46 An exploratory analysis was conducted to estimate the additional cost of 2-tier testing (ELISA
47 including C6 IgM and IgG followed by confirmatory immunoblot if ELISA is positive) over
48 initial testing only (ELISA including C6 IgM and IgG) in people with suspected Lyme disease
49 and to evaluate what the cost of a misdiagnosis (either false positive or false negative) would

1 need to be for 2-tier testing to be cost neutral. The results of this exploratory analysis indicate
2 that the cost of a misdiagnosis would need to be between £69 and £381 (depending on data
3 used) for the 2-tier testing to be cost neutral compared to initial testing only. Overall, the
4 committee considered that a misdiagnosis was very likely to cost at least £381, as these
5 people would have a number of healthcare interactions whether the misdiagnosis was a false
6 positive or a false negative. Therefore, the committee agreed that 2-tier testing is very likely
7 to be at least cost neutral compared to initial testing only and that it may even be cost saving.
8 A limitation of this analysis is that it did not account for health benefits. If these had been
9 incorporated, the committee considered that 2-tier testing would likely be cost-effective
10 compared to initial testing only.

11 Based on the analysis above and the clinical evidence the committee agreed to recommend
12 2-tier testing as is done in current practice.

13 The committee also considered circumstances where people have a negative test result to
14 the initial C6 ELISA but continue to be symptomatic. The committee agreed that their history
15 and symptoms should be reviewed and consider whether an alternative diagnosis is likely. If
16 Lyme disease is still suspected and the initial test may have been done too early, the
17 committee agreed that the initial C6 ELISA should be repeated 4-6 weeks after the initial test.

18 The committee considered that this additional test is highly likely to be cost effective as it will
19 reduce the number of people with Lyme disease being missed (false negatives) and ensure
20 they receive appropriate treatment in a timely manner. This should reduce any spending on
21 the management of long-term complications of undiagnosed Lyme disease and any
22 unnecessary referrals and investigations of people whose symptoms are unexplained and
23 who are looking for a cause for their symptoms. Furthermore, it will ensure that those who
24 have a second negative result from an initial test are appropriately managed and alternative
25 diagnoses are explored.

26 The committee noted that it is considered standard practice in many other infectious
27 diseases to repeat serological testing at a later time point to allow time for an antibody
28 response. In addition, it was noted that RIPL already informs the requesting laboratories that
29 a negative result does not rule out Lyme disease and that a repeat test may be required.

30 The committee made a further recommendation for those who test negative to the C6 ELISA
31 and continue to be symptomatic for greater than 12 weeks. They considered that in this
32 subset of people the C6 ELISA should be repeated along with an immunoblot. The
33 committee noted that although this would be more costly, as these people would be receiving
34 additional tests, they agreed that it would likely be offset by the reduction in additional
35 healthcare visits. The committee noted that the proportion of people to whom this new
36 recommendation would apply would be small relative to the number of people being tested
37 currently, as it would only be those who have tested negative and who continue to be
38 symptomatic after 12 weeks. Public Health England (PHE) reports that there are
39 approximately 1,000 serologically confirmed cases of Lyme disease each year in England
40 and Wales. The committee has indicated that about 14-15 times this number is tested at the
41 RIPL. In addition, some initial testing is carried out locally; these are not accounted for in this
42 estimate but are expected to be fewer than the number tested at RIPL. For this
43 recommendation of an additional C6 ELISA test and an immunoblot to be considered to have
44 a significant resource impact, it would need to be applicable to over 10,000 people based on
45 the current cost of these tests. It was concluded therefore that this additional
46 recommendation would not have a significant resource impact.

47 Finally, the committee recommended that when both the ELISA and immunoblot are
48 negative, but unexplained symptoms persist, to consider discussion with or referral to an
49 infectious disease specialist or a specialist appropriate for the person's symptoms (for
50 example, an adult or paediatric rheumatologist) to review whether further tests may be
51 needed for suspected Lyme disease, for example, synovial fluid aspirate or biopsy. Referral

1 to a specialist and additional testing would currently be done as part of a differential
2 diagnosis in these types of cases. The RIPL unit cost for a Lyme PCR is £42.23.

3 **4.4.3 Other factors the committee took into account**

4 It is current practice to treat people presenting with an EM rash for Lyme disease without the
5 need for diagnostic testing. The committee felt that an erythema migrans rash was very
6 specific to Lyme disease and that the benefits of prompt antibiotic treatment would
7 significantly outweigh any potential harms.

8 The committee noted that people might present with an atypical rash or multiple EM-like
9 rashes without any recollection of a tick bite. It was decided that these presentations are
10 unusual enough to justify diagnostic testing but treatment would be appropriate without
11 waiting for test results.

12 When making the decision to test a person for Lyme disease rather than diagnosing and
13 treating them on presentation, the committee considered a pragmatic approach to be the
14 most appropriate. The benefits of testing include improved confidence in the diagnosis in
15 positive cases and avoidance of inappropriate treatment, delay in investigation of other
16 causes and potential attribution of future symptoms to Lyme disease in negative cases. For
17 each person, these should be weighed against the potential risks of causing additional worry
18 to the person and a localised infection developing to a disseminated one. In some cases, it
19 may be appropriate to give a 'possible' or 'probable' diagnosis of Lyme disease and treat
20 accordingly. In cases where Lyme disease is highly likely, it may also be appropriate to begin
21 treatment before test results become available.

22 The committee noted that evidence on sensitivity and specificity did not take into account
23 pre-test probability, which must be considered in the clinical setting. The committee
24 emphasised the importance of clinical history in the context of diagnostic tests; interpretation
25 of test results must be related to the individual person who is presenting with symptoms or
26 concerns. The committee also discussed the potential effect of early treatment with
27 antibiotics or immunosuppressants on a person's immune response. Case studies have been
28 used to suggest that antibiotics can abrogate antibody response and some manufacturers of
29 tests also state this to explain results. While accepting that this lack of response is not
30 impossible it is not widely accepted among the medical community who consider that this
31 does not occur with other organisms and that if the patient was inadequately treated the
32 organism would go on replicating after a recovery period and an antibody response would
33 develop. This area was not systematically examined in the guideline and the committee
34 recognised that further investigation on immunological response to exposure to *Borrelia* is
35 ongoing.

36 The committee also discussed that different tests use different antigens from the main
37 pathogenic genospecies of *Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato*. It is possible for 1 blood sample
38 to test positive with 1 test and negative with another. Newer tests use synthetic antigens to
39 overcome some of these problems. European infections show a different response to tests
40 than North American infections, and this complicates the interpretation of diagnostic studies.

41 Based on the identified evidence, current clinical practice and their clinical experience, the
42 committee decided to recommend a combination of an initial C6 IgM and IgG ELISA if there
43 is suspicion of Lyme disease. A confirmatory immunoblot should be done in cases of a
44 positive or equivocal ELISA test result. If the ELISA test result is negative, an alternative
45 diagnosis should be considered given that the relatively low prevalence of Lyme disease
46 combined with the accuracy of the ELISA test makes other diagnoses possible. The
47 committee recognised the quality of the evidence for different tests but considered it
48 important to develop a strong recommendation for testing. Laboratory testing is a standard
49 method of assessing exposure to infectious diseases and given the potential significance of

1 complications associated with Lyme disease information from testing that may help support
2 or refute a diagnosis is worthwhile.

3 The timing of the initial ELISA test is, however, crucial. If the test is carried out too early for
4 the person to develop an immune response, it could result in a false negative result. The
5 committee also acknowledged that the immune response could fluctuate in the first 3 months
6 of an infection. In the current 2-tiered testing system, a negative result on an initial ELISA
7 would not usually lead to a confirmatory immunoblot test, unless a second ELISA test
8 performed at a later time point is positive. It was therefore agreed that if their symptoms
9 persist, people with a negative initial ELISA test should be offered a repeat test 4 to 6 weeks
10 after their first test. For people with a negative test result and unexplained symptoms for
11 more than 12 weeks, the committee decided to recommend that both the initial ELISA and
12 the confirmatory immunoblot be repeated. The rationale behind this approach was that the
13 overwhelming majority of these people would not have Lyme disease and the combination of
14 tests could help provide clarity for them. Alternative diagnoses would have to be considered
15 in this case. Ensuring that a determined attempt is made to detect any antigenic response is
16 in the interests of patient safety and to help in providing a diagnosis. In contrast, people living
17 in high-prevalence areas may be seropositive for Lyme disease and therefore receive a
18 positive test result, but may not have active Lyme disease. This is because antibodies can
19 last for some time even after an infection has been treated and the pathogen successfully
20 eradicated.

21 If Lyme disease is confirmed through a positive initial ELISA and a positive confirmatory
22 immunoblot, treatment should be started immediately to avoid dissemination of the disease.
23 The committee noted that for persons with focal symptoms, that is, symptoms that can be
24 attributed to a specific organ system, discussion with a specialist appropriate for the
25 symptoms should be considered. Treatment should be started immediately, however, and
26 not be delayed.

27 This is to ensure that people with more complex conditions, such as neuroborreliosis, can be
28 referred for a full assessment and appropriate treatment.

29 The committee recommended that tests for Lyme disease should be carried out at a
30 laboratory that uses validated tests and participates in an external quality assurance
31 programme. The clinical relevance of the test should also be clear and reported performance
32 of tests published independently. The committee discussed the approach to tests not carried
33 out according to these criteria and considered that Lyme disease should not be diagnosed
34 and tests repeated in these situations. Some tests performed at small private laboratories
35 across the world have not been validated; therefore, it is not clear whether these tests
36 actually assess an immunoresponse to the presence of *Borrelia*.

37 The committee also agreed that for persons with unexplained symptoms and negative test
38 results, a referral to a specialist appropriate for the symptoms or an infectious diseases
39 specialist should be considered. This is because in certain cases the bacteria may not exist
40 in the sample taken. For example, in persons with Lyme arthritis, an aspirate of joint fluid
41 may not contain *Borrelia* detectable by PCR as the organisms may be localised to the
42 synovium.

43 The committee identified the need for effective communication with people about the issues
44 surrounding diagnostic testing for Lyme disease. People with suspected Lyme disease
45 should be informed that the tests are not definitive proof of the presence or absence of a
46 *Borrelia* infection. Cases where there are 2 negative initial tests or a negative confirmatory
47 test also require careful communication. It is important that people still feel that they will
48 receive investigation and treatment if not for Lyme disease then to establish an alternative
49 diagnosis. Establishing an alternative diagnosis might be easier for some clinical
50 presentations, such as arthritis, than for more non-specific symptoms, such as myalgia. The
51 committee recognised the frustrations caused by the lack of a diagnosis and treatment plan

1 when people have non-specific symptoms and that acknowledgement and communication
2 about medical uncertainty is important.

3 The committee was aware of a European registry, comprising unpublished data from more
4 than 70 laboratories. The registry certifies laboratories if their tests 'correctly' identify Lyme
5 disease. Using the same samples, tests at different laboratories might provide different
6 numerical results. The interpretation of these results should, however, always lead to the
7 same conclusions. It was highlighted that datasets such as these would be useful in
8 evaluating the diagnostic accuracy of different tests.

9 The committee agreed to develop a research recommendation for diagnostic tests to ensure
10 a full evaluation of the available tests and to evaluate newer tests that may also be of value.
11 There is a need for well-conducted cross-sectional studies that use well-defined criteria as a
12 reference standard for Lyme disease and ensure that the index test and reference standard
13 are interpreted without the knowledge of previous test results. There is also a general lack of
14 evidence on newer tests, such as CSXL13, which warrants further research.

15 The committee also developed a research recommendation to determine the seroprevalence
16 of Lyme disease to improve understanding of the natural history of Lyme disease serology
17 and improve interpretation of serological results.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Review protocols

Table 25: Review protocol for initial diagnostic tests

Question number: 3.1

Relevant section of Scope: diagnosis

Field	Content
Review question	In people with suspected (or under investigation for) Lyme disease, what is the most accurate initial test to identify whether Lyme disease is present?
Type of review question	Diagnostic A review of health economic evidence related to the same review question was conducted in parallel with this review. For details, see the health economic review protocol for this NICE guideline.
Objective of the review	To evaluate the accuracy of initial tests in diagnosing Lyme disease. The intended use of an initial test is to identify who has Lyme disease, who has had Lyme disease, who requires further tests, or in whom a diagnosis can be ruled out.
Eligibility criteria – population / disease / condition / issue / domain	Adults (18 years and over), young people (12 to 17 years) and children (under 12 years) with suspected (or under investigation for) Lyme disease. Target condition: Lyme disease (specifically, conditions caused by <i>Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato</i>)
Eligibility criteria – intervention(s) / exposure(s) / prognostic factor(s)	Serology assays: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Borrelia</i> recomLine IgG (Mikrogen) • <i>Borrelia</i> Virastripe IgM/IgG (Viramed) • C6 ELISA (Immunetics) • Diasorin LIAISON <i>Borrelia</i> IgM Quant • Enzygnost Lyme link IgG/ViSE (Siemens) • VIDAS Lyme IgM and IgG (Biomerieux) • Other assays used elsewhere in the world: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-RN-AT IgG (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-WB IgG, IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLONE-RN-AT IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> plus ViSE ELISA (IgG) & anti-<i>Borrelia</i> ELISA (IgM; Euroimmun) ○ <i>B Burgdorferi</i> IgG EIA (Diagnostic Automation) ○ <i>Borrelia</i> ViraChip IgG/IgM assay (ViraMed) ○ Capita™ <i>B. burgdorferi</i> IgG.IgM EIA (Trinity Biotech) ○ Genzyme Virotech <i>Borrelia</i> Europe Line (Virotech) ○ Immunoblot IgG (IGeneX) ○ MardX EU Lyme and VLSE Immunoblots (Trinity Biotech) ○ NovaLisa IgG EIA (Nova Tec) ○ Premier Lyme EIA IgG/IgM (Meridian Bioscience Inc.) ○ recomBead <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM v2.0 (Mikrogen)

Field	Content
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RecomLine <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM Immunoblot (Mikrogen) ○ RecomWell <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Mikrogen) ○ SeraSpot Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Seramun Diagnostica GmbH) ○ VIR-ELISA anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (VIRO-IMMUN Labor-Diagnostika GmbH) <p>Direct microscopic visualisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Biopsy/histology <p>Lymphocyte transformation tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EliSpot ● LTT-MELISA® ● SpiroFind™ assay (Boulder Diagnostics) <p>CD57 test</p> <p>Inflammatory markers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● C-reactive protein (CRP) ● Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) <p>Full blood count:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eosinophil ● Haemoglobin ● Lymphocyte ● Monocyte ● Neutrophil/Band/ANC ● Platelet ● White blood cell (WBC) <p>CXCL13 (from a CSF or serum sample)</p> <p>PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis ● Synovial fluid analysis <p>Biopsy/histology</p>
<p>Eligibility criteria – comparator(s) / control or reference (gold) standard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Borrelia</i> culture (Spirochaete is difficult to culture and grows slowly and is therefore not compatible with providing a rapid diagnostic result). ● Clinical diagnosis ● PCR <p>All index tests compared with all reference tests and reference tests compared with each other (in this case, clinical diagnosis will be the reference standard).</p>
<p>Outcomes and prioritisation</p>	<p>Detecting Lyme disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sensitivity ● Specificity ● Positive Predictive Value ● Negative Predictive Value ● Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve or area under curve

Field	Content
Eligibility criteria – study design	<p>Include:</p> <p>Cross-sectional studies, in which the index test(s) and the reference standard test are applied to the same people</p> <p>Exclude (unless there is insufficient evidence and agreed to include with the committee):</p> <p>Two-gate/case-control study designs that compare the results of the index test in people with an established diagnosis with its results in healthy controls.</p> <p>Exclude:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case reports • Case series
Other inclusion exclusion criteria	<p>Date limits for search: none</p> <p>Language: English only</p> <p>Setting: all settings where NHS care is provided or commissioned</p>
Proposed sensitivity / subgroup analysis, or meta-regression	<p>Stratum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children (under 12 years); young people and adults (12 years and over; this stratification only applies to immunologic tests) • Focal organ disease; non-specified symptoms; no symptoms • People who have not had a test previously; people who already have had a test with a negative result • Timing of test less than 6 weeks; 6 weeks to 6 months; over 6 months from tick bite or infection <p>Subgroups (to be investigated if heterogeneity is identified):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant women • People who are immunocompromised • People with ehrlichiosis (and synonyms) • People who have been partially treated (are or have been on antibiotics or steroids)
Selection process – duplicate screening / selection / analysis	<p>Studies will be sifted by title and abstract. Potentially significant publications obtained in full text will then be assessed against the inclusion criteria specified in this protocol.</p>
Data management (software)	<p>Sensitivity and specificity will be calculated using Cochrane Review Manager (RevMan5).</p> <p>Diagnostic meta-analyses will be conducted using WinBUGS14 and graphically presented using RevMan5.</p> <p>Bibliographies, citations, study sifting and reference management will be managed using EndNote.</p>
Information sources – databases and dates	<p>Clinical searches</p> <p>Medline, Embase, The Cochrane Library all years</p> <p>Health economic searches</p> <p>Medline, Embase, NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED), Health Technology Assessment (HTA) all years</p>
Identify if an update	Not applicable
Author contacts	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10007
Highlight if amendment to previous protocol	For details, please see section 4.5 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Search strategy – for one database	For details, please see appendix B

Field	Content
Data collection process – forms / duplicate	A standardised evidence table format will be used, and published as appendix D of the evidence report.
Data items – define all variables to be collected	For details, please see evidence tables in appendix D (clinical evidence tables) or H (health economic evidence tables).
Methods for assessing bias at outcome / study level	Standard study checklists were used to appraise individual studies critically. For details please see section 6.2 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual The risk of bias will be evaluated for each outcome on a study level using the QUADAS-2 checklist.
Criteria for quantitative synthesis	For details, please see section 6.4 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Methods for quantitative analysis – combining studies and exploring (in)consistency	For details, please see the separate Methods report for this guideline.
Meta-bias assessment – publication bias, selective reporting bias	For details, please see section 6.2 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Confidence in cumulative evidence	For details, please see sections 6.4 and 9.1 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual. The quality of the evidence per outcome across studies will be assessed using an adapted GRADE approach.
Rationale / context – what is known	For details, please see the introduction to the evidence review.
Describe contributions of authors and guarantor	A multidisciplinary committee developed the evidence review. The committee was convened by the National Guideline Centre (NGC) and chaired by Saul Faust in line with section 3 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual. Staff from the NGC undertook systematic literature searches, appraised the evidence, conducted meta-analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis where appropriate, and drafted the evidence review in collaboration with the committee. For details, please see Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Sources of funding / support	The NGC is funded by NICE and hosted by the Royal College of Physicians.
Name of sponsor	The NGC is funded by NICE and hosted by the Royal College of Physicians.
Roles of sponsor	NICE funds the NGC to develop guidelines for those working in the NHS, public health and social care in England.
PROSPERO registration number	Not registered

1 **Table 26: Review protocol for confirmatory diagnostic tests**

2 Question number: 3.2

3 Relevant section of Scope: diagnosis

4

Field	Content
Review question	In people with a positive test for Lyme disease, what is the most accurate test to confirm or rule out Lyme disease?
Type of review question	Diagnostic

Field	Content
	<p>A review of health economic evidence related to the same review question was conducted in parallel with this review. For details, see the health economic review protocol for this NICE guideline.</p>
Objective of the review	<p>To evaluate the accuracy of confirmatory tests in diagnosing Lyme disease.</p> <p>In people with a positive test result for Lyme disease, the intended use of a confirmatory test is to confirm who has Lyme disease, who has had Lyme disease, or in whom a diagnosis can be ruled out. A confirmatory test may be needed if the initial test has a relatively low specificity.</p>
Eligibility criteria – population / disease / condition / issue / domain	<p>Adults (18 years and over), young people (12 to 17 years) and children (under 12 years) with a positive test for Lyme disease.</p> <p>Target condition: Lyme disease (specifically, conditions caused by <i>Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato</i>)</p>
Eligibility criteria – intervention(s) / exposure(s) / prognostic factor(s)	<p>Serology assays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Borrelia</i> recomLine IgG (Mikrogen) • <i>Borrelia</i> Virastripe IgM/IgG (Viramed) • C6 ELISA (Immunetics) • Diasorin LIAISON <i>Borrelia</i> IgM Quant • Enzygnost Lyme link IgG/VIsE (Siemens) • VIDAS Lyme IgM and IgG (Biomerieux) • Other assays used elsewhere in the world: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-RN-AT IgG (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-WB IgG, IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLONE-RN-AT IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> plus VIsE ELISA (IgG) & anti-<i>Borrelia</i> ELISA (IgM; Euroimmun) ○ <i>B Burgdorferi</i> IgG EIA (Diagnostic Automation) ○ <i>Borrelia</i> ViraChip IgG/IgM assay (ViraMed) ○ Capita™ <i>B. burgdorferi</i> IgG.IgM EIA (Trinity Biotech) ○ Genzyme Virotech <i>Borrelia</i> Europe Line (Virotech) ○ Immunoblot IgG (IGeneX) ○ MardX EU Lyme and VLSE Immunoblots (Trinity Biotech) ○ NovaLisa IgG EIA (Nova Tec) ○ Premier Lyme EIA IgG/IgM (Meridian Bioscience Inc.) ○ recomBead <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM v2.0 (Mikrogen) ○ RecomLine <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM Immunoblot (Mikrogen) ○ RecomWell <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Mikrogen) ○ SeraSpot Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Seramun Diagnostica GmbH) ○ VIR-ELISA anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (VIRO-IMMUN Labor-Diagnostika GmbH) <p>Direct microscopic visualisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biopsy/histology <p>Lymphocyte transformation tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EliSpot • LTT-MELISA® • SpiroFind™ assay (Boulder Diagnostics) <p>CD57 test</p>

Field	Content
	<p>Inflammatory markers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-reactive protein (CRP) • Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) <p>Full blood count:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eosinophil • Haemoglobin • Lymphocyte • Monocyte • Neutrophil/Band/ANC • Platelet • White blood cell (WBC) <p>CXCL13 (from a CSF or serum sample)</p> <p>PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synovial fluid analysis • Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis <p>Biopsy/histology</p>
Eligibility criteria – comparator(s) / control or reference (gold) standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Borrelia</i> culture (Spirochaete is difficult to culture and grows slowly and is therefore not compatible with providing a rapid diagnostic result). • Clinical diagnosis • PCR <p>All index tests compared with all reference tests and reference tests compared with each other (in this case clinical diagnosis will be the reference standard).</p>
Outcomes and prioritisation	<p>Detecting Lyme disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitivity • Specificity • Positive Predictive Value • Negative Predictive Value • Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve or area under curve
Eligibility criteria – study design	<p>Include:</p> <p>Cross-sectional studies, in which the index test(s) and the reference standard test are applied to the same people</p> <p>Exclude (unless there is insufficient evidence and agreed to include with the committee):</p> <p>Two-gate/case-control study designs that compare the results of the index test in people with an established diagnosis with its results in healthy controls.</p> <p>Exclude:</p> <p>Case reports</p> <p>Case series</p>
Other inclusion exclusion criteria	<p>Date limits for search: none</p> <p>Language: English only</p>

Field	Content
	Setting: all settings where NHS care is provided or commissioned
Proposed sensitivity / subgroup analysis, or meta-regression	<p>Stratum:</p> <p>Focal organ disease; non-specified symptoms; no symptoms Children (under 12 years); young people and adults (12 years and over; this stratification only applies to immunologic tests) Timing of test less than 6 weeks; 6 weeks to 6 months; over 6 months from tick bite or infection</p> <p>Subgroups (to be investigated if heterogeneity is identified):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant women • People who are immunocompromised • People with ehrlichiosis (and synonyms) • People who have been partially treated (are or have been on antibiotics or steroids)
Selection process – duplicate screening / selection / analysis	Studies will be sifted by title and abstract. Potentially significant publications obtained in full text will then be assessed against the inclusion criteria specified in this protocol.
Data management (software)	<p>Sensitivity and specificity will be calculated using Cochrane Review Manager (RevMan5).</p> <p>Diagnostic meta-analyses will be conducted using WinBUGS14 and graphically presented using RevMan5.</p> <p>Bibliographies, citations and study sifting will be managed using EndNote</p>
Information sources – databases and dates	Medline, Embase, The Cochrane Library
Identify if an update	Not applicable
Author contacts	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10007
Highlight if amendment to previous protocol	For details, please see section 4.5 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Search strategy – for one database	For details, please see appendix B
Data collection process – forms / duplicate	A standardised evidence table format will be used, and published as appendix D of the evidence report.
Data items – define all variables to be collected	For details, please see evidence tables in appendix D (clinical evidence tables) or H (health economic evidence tables).
Methods for assessing bias at outcome / study level	<p>Standard study checklists were used to appraise individual studies critically. For details please see section 6.2 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual</p> <p>The risk of bias will be evaluated for each outcome on a study using the QUADAS-2 checklist.</p>
Criteria for quantitative synthesis	For details, please see section 6.4 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Methods for quantitative analysis – combining studies and exploring (in)consistency	For details, please see the separate Methods report for this guideline.
Meta-bias assessment – publication bias, selective reporting bias	For details, please see section 6.2 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Confidence in cumulative evidence	<p>For details, please see sections 6.4 and 9.1 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.</p> <p>The quality of the evidence per outcome across studies will be</p>

Field	Content
	assessed using an adapted GRADE approach.
Rationale / context – what is known	For details, please see the introduction to the evidence review.
Describe contributions of authors and guarantor	A multidisciplinary committee developed the evidence review. The committee was convened by the National Guideline Centre (NGC) and chaired by Saul Faust in line with section 3 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual. Staff from the NGC undertook systematic literature searches, appraised the evidence, conducted meta-analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis where appropriate, and drafted the evidence review in collaboration with the committee. For details, please see Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Sources of funding / support	The NGC is funded by NICE and hosted by the Royal College of Physicians.
Name of sponsor	The NGC is funded by NICE and hosted by the Royal College of Physicians.
Roles of sponsor	NICE funds the NGC to develop guidelines for those working in the NHS, public health and social care in England.
PROSPERO registration number	Not registered

1 **Table 27: Review protocol for combination of diagnostic tests**

2 Question number: 3.3

3 Relevant section of Scope: diagnosis

4

Field	Content
Review question	In people with suspected (or under investigation for) Lyme disease, what is the most accurate combination of tests to diagnose or rule out Lyme disease?
Type of review question	Diagnostic A review of health economic evidence related to the same review question was conducted in parallel with this review. For details, see the health economic review protocol for this NICE guideline.
Objective of the review	To evaluate the accuracy of 2-tiered testing for Lyme disease. It is current standard practice to use an initial test for Lyme disease and – if a positive test result is obtained – confirm the diagnosis through a confirmatory test. This review aims to determine which combination of initial tests (either an initial test followed by a confirmatory test, or 2 or more initial tests combined) is the most accurate for diagnosing or ruling out Lyme disease.
Eligibility criteria – population / disease / condition / issue / domain	Adults (18 years and over), young people (12 to 17 years) and children (under 12 years) with suspected (or under investigation for) Lyme disease. Target condition: Lyme disease (specifically, conditions caused by <i>Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato</i>)
Eligibility criteria – intervention(s) / exposure(s) / prognostic factor(s)	Serology assays: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Borrelia</i> recomLine IgG (Mikrogen) • <i>Borrelia</i> Virastripe IgM/IgG (Viramed) • C6 ELISA (Immunetics)

Field	Content
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diasorin LIAISON <i>Borrelia</i> IgM Quant • Enzygnost Lyme link IgG/VIsE (Siemens) • VIDAS Lyme IgM and IgG (Biomerieux) • Other assays used elsewhere in the world: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-RN-AT IgG (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLINE-WB IgG, IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> EUROLONE-RN-AT IgM (Euroimmun) ○ Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> plus VIsE ELISA (IgG) & anti-<i>Borrelia</i> ELISA (IgM; Euroimmun) ○ <i>B Burgdorferi</i> IgG EIA (Diagnostic Automation) ○ <i>Borrelia</i> ViraChip IgG/IgM assay (ViraMed) ○ Capita™ <i>B. burgdorferi</i> IgG.IgM EIA (Trinity Biotech) ○ Genzyme Virotech <i>Borrelia</i> Europe Line (Virotech) ○ Immunoblot IgG (IGeneX) ○ MardX EU Lyme and VLSE Immunoblots (Trinity Biotech) ○ NovaLisa IgG EIA (Nova Tec) ○ Premier Lyme EIA IgG/IgM (Meridian Bioscience Inc.) ○ recomBead <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM v2.0 (Mikrogen) ○ RecomLine <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM Immunoblot (Mikrogen) ○ RecomWell <i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Mikrogen) ○ SeraSpot Anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (Seramun Diagnostica GmbH) ○ VIR-ELISA anti-<i>Borrelia</i> IgG/IgM (VIRO-IMMUN Labor-Diagnostika GmbH) <p>Direct microscopic visualisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biopsy/histology <p>Lymphocyte transformation tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EliSpot • LTT-MELISA® • SpiroFind™ assay (Boulder Diagnostics) <p>CD57 test</p> <p>Inflammatory markers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-reactive protein (CRP) • Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) <p>Full blood count:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eosinophil • Haemoglobin • Lymphocyte • Monocyte • Neutrophil/Band/ANC • Platelet • White blood cell (WBC) <p>CXCL13 (from a CSF or serum sample)</p> <p>PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synovial fluid analysis

Field	Content
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis <p>Biopsy/histology</p>
Eligibility criteria – comparator(s) / control or reference (gold) standard	<p><i>Borrelia</i> culture (Spirochaete is difficult to culture and grows slowly and is therefore not compatible with providing a rapid diagnostic result). PCR Clinical diagnosis</p> <p>All index tests compared with all reference tests and reference tests compared with each other (in this case, clinical diagnosis will be the reference standard).</p>
Outcomes and prioritisation	<p>Detecting Lyme disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitivity • Specificity • Positive Predictive Value • Negative Predictive Value • Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve or area under curve
Eligibility criteria – study design	<p>Include: Cross-sectional studies, in which the index test(s) and the reference standard test are applied to the same people</p> <p>Exclude (unless there is insufficient evidence and agreed to include with the committee): Two-gate/case-control study designs that compare the results of the index test in people with an established diagnosis with its results in healthy controls.</p> <p>Exclude: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case reports • Case series </p>
Other inclusion exclusion criteria	<p>Date limits for search: none Language: English only Setting: all settings where NHS care is provided or commissioned</p>
Proposed sensitivity / subgroup analysis, or meta-regression	<p>Stratum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children (under 12 years); young people and adults (12 years and over; this stratification only applies to immunologic tests) • Focal organ disease; non-specified symptoms; no symptoms • People who have not had a test previously; people who already have had a test with a negative result • Timing of test less than 6 weeks; 6 weeks to 6 months; over 6 months from tick bite or infection <p>Subgroups (to be investigated if heterogeneity is identified):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant women • People who are immunocompromised • People with ehrlichiosis (and synonyms) • People who have been partially treated (are or have been on antibiotics or steroids)
Selection process – duplicate screening / selection / analysis	<p>Studies will be sifted by title and abstract. Potentially significant publications obtained in full text will then be assessed against the inclusion criteria specified in this protocol.</p>

Field	Content
Data management (software)	Sensitivity and specificity will be calculated using Cochrane Review Manager (RevMan5). Diagnostic meta-analyses will be conducted using WinBUGS14 and graphically presented using RevMan5. Bibliographies, citations and study sifting will be managed using EndNote
Information sources – databases and dates	Medline, Embase, The Cochrane Library
Identify if an update	Not applicable
Author contacts	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10007
Highlight if amendment to previous protocol	For details, please see section 4.5 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Search strategy – for one database	For details, please see appendix B
Data collection process – forms / duplicate	A standardised evidence table format will be used, and published as appendix D of the evidence report.
Data items – define all variables to be collected	For details, please see evidence tables in appendix D (clinical evidence tables) or H (health economic evidence tables).
Methods for assessing bias at outcome / study level	Standard study checklists were used to appraise individual studies critically. For details please see section 6.2 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual The risk of bias will be evaluated for each outcome on a study level using the QUADAS-2 checklist.
Criteria for quantitative synthesis	For details, please see section 6.4 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Methods for quantitative analysis – combining studies and exploring (in)consistency	For details, please see the separate Methods report for this guideline.
Meta-bias assessment – publication bias, selective reporting bias	For details, please see section 6.2 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Confidence in cumulative evidence	For details, please see sections 6.4 and 9.1 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual. The quality of the evidence per outcome across studies will be assessed using an adapted GRADE approach.
Rationale / context – what is known	For details, please see the introduction to the evidence review.
Describe contributions of authors and guarantor	A multidisciplinary committee developed the evidence review. The committee was convened by the National Guideline Centre (NGC) and chaired by Saul Faust in line with section 3 of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual. Staff from the NGC undertook systematic literature searches, appraised the evidence, conducted meta-analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis where appropriate, and drafted the evidence review in collaboration with the committee. For details, please see Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.
Sources of funding / support	The NGC is funded by NICE and hosted by the Royal College of Physicians.
Name of sponsor	The NGC is funded by NICE and hosted by the Royal College of Physicians.
Roles of sponsor	NICE funds the NGC to develop guidelines for those working in the

Field	Content
	NHS, public health and social care in England.
PROSPERO registration number	Not registered

1

Table 28: Health economic review protocol

Review question	All questions – health economic evidence
Objectives	To identify health economic studies relevant to any of the review questions.
Search criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Populations, interventions and comparators must be as specified in the clinical review protocol above. • Studies must be of a relevant health economic study design (cost–utility analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, cost–benefit analysis, cost–consequences analysis, comparative cost analysis). • Studies must not be a letter, editorial or commentary, or a review of health economic evaluations. (Recent reviews will be ordered although not reviewed. The bibliographies will be checked for relevant studies, which will then be ordered.) • Unpublished reports will not be considered unless submitted as part of a call for evidence. • Studies must be in English.
Search strategy	A health economic study search will be undertaken using population-specific terms and a health economic study filter – see appendix B below.
Review strategy	<p>Studies not meeting any of the search criteria above will be excluded. Studies published before 2001, abstract-only studies and studies from non-OECD countries or the US will also be excluded.</p> <p>Each remaining study will be assessed for applicability and methodological limitations using the NICE economic evaluation checklist which can be found in appendix H of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual (2014).³²⁴</p> <p>Inclusion and exclusion criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a study is rated as both ‘Directly applicable’ and with ‘Minor limitations’, then it will be included in the guideline. A health economic evidence table will be completed and it will be included in the health economic evidence profile. • If a study is rated as either ‘Not applicable’ or with ‘Very serious limitations’, then it will usually be excluded from the guideline. If it is excluded then a health economic evidence table will not be completed and it will not be included in the health economic evidence profile. • If a study is rated as ‘Partially applicable’, with ‘Potentially serious limitations’ or both, then there is discretion over whether it should be included. <p>Where there is discretion</p> <p>The health economist will make a decision based on the relative applicability and quality of the available evidence for that question, in discussion with the guideline committee if required. The ultimate aim is to include health economic studies that are helpful for decision-making in the context of the guideline and the current NHS setting. If several studies are considered of sufficiently high applicability and methodological quality that they could all be included, then the health economist, in discussion with the committee if required, may decide to include only the most applicable studies and to exclude the remaining studies selectively. All studies excluded based on applicability or methodological limitations will be listed with explanation in the excluded health economic studies appendix below.</p> <p>The health economist will be guided by the following hierarchies. <i>Setting:</i></p>

- UK NHS (most applicable).
- OECD countries with predominantly public health insurance systems (for example, France, Germany, Sweden).
- OECD countries with predominantly private health insurance systems (for example, Switzerland).
- Studies set in non-OECD countries or in the US will be excluded before being assessed for applicability and methodological limitations.

Health economic study type:

- Cost–utility analysis (most applicable).
- Other type of full economic evaluation (cost–benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, cost–consequences analysis).
- Comparative cost analysis.
- Non-comparative cost analyses including cost-of-illness studies will be excluded before being assessed for applicability and methodological limitations.

Year of analysis:

- The more recent the study, the more applicable it will be.
- Studies published in 2001 or later but that depend on unit costs and resource data entirely or predominantly before 2001 will be rated as ‘Not applicable’.
- Studies published before 2001 will be excluded before being assessed for applicability and methodological limitations.

Quality and relevance of effectiveness data used in the health economic analysis:

- The more closely the clinical effectiveness data used in the health economic analysis match with the outcomes of the studies included in the clinical review the more useful the analysis will be for decision-making in the guideline.

1
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Appendix B: Literature search strategies

The literature searches for this review are detailed below and complied with the methodology outlined in Developing NICE guidelines: the manual 2014, updated 2017
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/pmg20/resources/developing-nice-guidelines-the-manual-pdf-72286708700869>

For more detailed information, please see the Methodology Review.

B.1 Clinical search literature search strategy

The search for this review was constructed using population terms. An excluded studies filter was applied where appropriate.

Table 29: Database date parameters and filters used

Database	Dates searched	Search filter used
Medline (OVID)	1946 – 03 July 2017	Exclusions
Embase (OVID)	1974 – 03 July 2017	Exclusions
The Cochrane Library (Wiley)	Cochrane Reviews to 2017 Issue 7 of 12 CENTRAL to 2017 Issue 6 of 12 DARE, and NHSEED to 2015 Issue 2 of 4 HTA to 2016 Issue 4 of 4	None

Medline (Ovid) search terms

1.	exp Borrelia Infections/
2.	exp Lyme disease/
3.	Erythema Chronicum Migrans/
4.	(erythema adj3 migrans).ti,ab.
5.	lyme*.ti,ab.
6.	(tick* adj2 (bite* or bitten or biting or borne)).ti,ab.
7.	acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans.ti,ab.
8.	exp Ixodidae/
9.	(borreliosis or borrelia* or neuroborreliosis or ixodid or ixodidae or ixodes or b burgdorferi or b afzelii or b garinii or b bissettii or b valaisiana or b microti).ti,ab.
10.	(granulocytic anaplasmosis or babesia or babesiosis).ti,ab.
11.	or/1-10
12.	letter/
13.	editorial/
14.	news/
15.	exp historical article/
16.	Anecdotes as Topic/
17.	comment/
18.	(letter or comment*).ti.
19.	or/12-18
20.	randomized controlled trial/ or random*.ti,ab.
21.	19 not 20

22.	animals/ not humans/
23.	exp Animals, Laboratory/
24.	exp Animal Experimentation/
25.	exp Models, Animal/
26.	exp Rodentia/
27.	(rat or rats or mouse or mice).ti.
28.	or/21-27
29.	11 not 28
30.	limit 29 to English language

1

Embase (Ovid) search terms

1.	exp Borrelia Infection/
2.	exp Lyme disease/
3.	Erythema Chronicum Migrans/
4.	(erythema adj3 migrans).ti,ab.
5.	lyme*.ti,ab.
6.	(tick* adj2 (bite* or bitten or biting or borne)).ti,ab.
7.	acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans.ti,ab.
8.	exp Ixodidae/
9.	(borreliosis or borrelia* or neuroborreliosis or ixodidae or ixodes or b burgdorferi or b afzelii or b garinii or b bissetii or b valaisiana or b microti).ti,ab.
10.	(granulocytic anaplasmosis or babesia or babesiosis).ti,ab.
11.	or/1-10
12.	letter.pt. or letter/
13.	note.pt.
14.	editorial.pt.
15.	(letter or comment*).ti.
16.	or/12-15
17.	randomized controlled trial/ or random*.ti,ab.
18.	16 not 17
19.	animal/ not human/
20.	Nonhuman/
21.	exp Animal Experiment/
22.	exp Experimental animal/
23.	Animal model/
24.	exp Rodent/
25.	(rat or rats or mouse or mice).ti.
26.	or/18-25
27.	11 not 26
28.	limit 27 to English language

2

Cochrane Library (Wiley) search terms

#1.	MeSH descriptor: [Borrelia Infections] explode all trees
#2.	MeSH descriptor: [Lyme Disease] explode all trees
#3.	MeSH descriptor: [Erythema Chronicum Migrans] explode all trees
#4.	(erythema near/3 migrans):ti,ab

#5.	lyme*:ti,ab
#6.	(tick* near/2 (bite* or bitten or biting or borne)):ti,ab
#7.	acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans:ti,ab
#8.	MeSH descriptor: [Ixodidae] explode all trees
#9.	(borreliosis or borrelia* or neuroborreliosis or ixodidae or ixodes or ixodid or b burgdorferi or b afzelii or b garinii or b bissettii or b valaisiana or b microti):ti,ab
#10.	(granulocytic anaplasmosis or babesia or babesiosis):ti,ab
#11.	#1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10

1 B.2 Health Economics literature search strategy

2 Health economic evidence was identified by conducting a broad search relating to Lyme
3 disease population in NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED – this ceased to be
4 updated after March 2015) and the Health Technology Assessment database (HTA) with no
5 date restrictions. NHS EED and HTA databases are hosted by the Centre for Research and
6 Dissemination (CRD). Additional searches were run on Medline and Embase for health
7 economics, economic modelling and quality of life studies.

8 **Table 30: Database date parameters and filters used**

Database	Dates searched	Search filter used
Medline	1946 – 03 July 2017	Exclusions Health economics studies Health economics modelling studies Quality of life studies
Embase	1974 – 03 July 2017	Exclusions Health economics studies Health economics modelling studies Quality of life studies
Centre for Research and Dissemination (CRD)	HTA - Inception – 03 July 2017 NHSEED - Inception to March 2015	None

9 **Medline (Ovid) search terms**

1.	exp Borrelia Infections/
2.	exp Lyme disease/
3.	Erythema Chronicum Migrans/
4.	(erythema adj3 migrans).ti,ab.
5.	lyme*.ti,ab.
6.	(tick* adj2 (bite* or bitten or biting or borne)).ti,ab.
7.	acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans.ti,ab.
8.	exp Ixodidae/
9.	(borreliosis or borrelia* or neuroborreliosis or ixodid or ixodidae or ixodes or b burgdorferi or b afzelii or b garinii or b bissettii or b valaisiana or b microti).ti,ab.
10.	(granulocytic anaplasmosis or babesia or babesiosis).ti,ab.
11.	or/1-10
12.	letter/

13.	editorial/
14.	news/
15.	exp historical article/
16.	Anecdotes as Topic/
17.	comment/
18.	(letter or comment*).ti.
19.	or/12-18
20.	randomized controlled trial/ or random*.ti,ab.
21.	19 not 20
22.	animals/ not humans/
23.	exp Animals, Laboratory/
24.	exp Animal Experimentation/
25.	exp Models, Animal/
26.	exp Rodentia/
27.	(rat or rats or mouse or mice).ti.
28.	or/21-27
29.	11 not 28
30.	limit 29 to English language
31.	Economics/
32.	Value of life/
33.	exp "Costs and Cost Analysis"/
34.	exp Economics, Hospital/
35.	exp Economics, Medical/
36.	Economics, Nursing/
37.	Economics, Pharmaceutical/
38.	exp "Fees and Charges"/
39.	exp Budgets/
40.	budget*.ti,ab.
41.	cost*.ti.
42.	(economic* or pharmaco?economic*).ti.
43.	(price* or pricing*).ti,ab.
44.	(cost* adj2 (effective* or utilit* or benefit* or minimi* or unit* or estimat* or variable*)).ab.
45.	(financ* or fee or fees).ti,ab.
46.	(value adj2 (money or monetary)).ti,ab.
47.	or/31-46
48.	exp models, economic/
49.	*Models, Theoretical/
50.	*Models, Organizational/
51.	markov chains/
52.	monte carlo method/

53.	exp Decision Theory/
54.	(markov* or monte carlo).ti,ab.
55.	econom* model*.ti,ab.
56.	(decision* adj2 (tree* or analy* or model*)).ti,ab.
57.	or/48-56
58.	quality-adjusted life years/
59.	sickness impact profile/
60.	(quality adj2 (wellbeing or well being)).ti,ab.
61.	sickness impact profile.ti,ab.
62.	disability adjusted life.ti,ab.
63.	(qal* or qtime* or qwb* or daly*).ti,ab.
64.	(euroqol* or eq5d* or eq 5*).ti,ab.
65.	(qol* or hql* or hqol* or h qol* or hrqol* or hr qol*).ti,ab.
66.	(health utility* or utility score* or disutilit* or utility value*).ti,ab.
67.	(hui or hui1 or hui2 or hui3).ti,ab.
68.	(health* year* equivalent* or hye or hyes).ti,ab.
69.	discrete choice*.ti,ab.
70.	rosser.ti,ab.
71.	(willingness to pay or time tradeoff or time trade off or tto or standard gamble*).ti,ab.
72.	(sf36* or sf 36* or short form 36* or shortform 36* or shortform36*).ti,ab.
73.	(sf20 or sf 20 or short form 20 or shortform 20 or shortform20).ti,ab.
74.	(sf12* or sf 12* or short form 12* or shortform 12* or shortform12*).ti,ab.
75.	(sf8* or sf 8* or short form 8* or shortform 8* or shortform8*).ti,ab.
76.	(sf6* or sf 6* or short form 6* or shortform 6* or shortform6*).ti,ab.
77.	or/58-76
78.	30 and 47
79.	30 and 57
80.	30 and 77

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Embase (Ovid) search terms

1.	exp Borrelia Infection/
2.	exp Lyme disease/
3.	Erythema Chronicum Migrans/
4.	(erythema adj3 migrans).ti,ab.
5.	lyme*.ti,ab.
6.	(tick* adj2 (bite* or bitten or biting or borne)).ti,ab.
7.	acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans.ti,ab.
8.	exp Ixodidae/
9.	(borreliosis or borrelia* or neuroborreliosis or ixodidae or ixodes or b burgdorferi or b afzelii or b garinii or b bissettii or b valaisiana or b microti).ti,ab.
10.	(granulocytic anaplasmosis or babesia or babesiosis).ti,ab.

11.	or/1-10
12.	letter.pt. or letter/
13.	note.pt.
14.	editorial.pt.
15.	Case report/ or Case study/
16.	(letter or comment*).ti.
17.	or/12-16
18.	randomized controlled trial/ or random*.ti,ab.
19.	17 not 18
20.	animal/ not human/
21.	Nonhuman/
22.	exp Animal Experiment/
23.	exp Experimental animal/
24.	Animal model/
25.	exp Rodent/
26.	(rat or rats or mouse or mice).ti.
27.	or/19-26
28.	11 not 27
29.	limit 28 to English language
30.	health economics/
31.	exp economic evaluation/
32.	exp health care cost/
33.	exp fee/
34.	budget/
35.	funding/
36.	budget*.ti,ab.
37.	cost*.ti.
38.	(economic* or pharmaco?economic*).ti.
39.	(price* or pricing*).ti,ab.
40.	(cost* adj2 (effective* or utilit* or benefit* or minimi* or unit* or estimat* or variable*)).ab.
41.	(financ* or fee or fees).ti,ab.
42.	(value adj2 (money or monetary)).ti,ab.
43.	or/30-42
44.	statistical model/
45.	exp economic aspect/
46.	44 and 45
47.	*theoretical model/
48.	*nonbiological model/
49.	stochastic model/
50.	decision theory/

51.	decision tree/
52.	monte carlo method/
53.	(markov* or monte carlo).ti,ab.
54.	econom* model*.ti,ab.
55.	(decision* adj2 (tree* or analy* or model*)).ti,ab.
56.	or/46-55
57.	quality adjusted life year/
58.	"quality of life index"/
59.	short form 12/ or short form 20/ or short form 36/ or short form 8/
60.	sickness impact profile/
61.	(quality adj2 (wellbeing or well being)).ti,ab.
62.	sickness impact profile.ti,ab.
63.	disability adjusted life.ti,ab.
64.	(qal* or qtime* or qwb* or daly*).ti,ab.
65.	(euroqol* or eq5d* or eq 5*).ti,ab.
66.	(qol* or hql* or hqol* or h qol* or hrqol* or hr qol*).ti,ab.
67.	(health utility* or utility score* or disutilit* or utility value*).ti,ab.
68.	(hui or hui1 or hui2 or hui3).ti,ab.
69.	(health* year* equivalent* or hye or hyes).ti,ab.
70.	discrete choice*.ti,ab.
71.	rosser.ti,ab.
72.	(willingness to pay or time tradeoff or time trade off or tto or standard gamble*).ti,ab.
73.	(sf36* or sf 36* or short form 36* or shortform 36* or shortform36*).ti,ab.
74.	(sf20 or sf 20 or short form 20 or shortform 20 or shortform20).ti,ab.
75.	(sf12* or sf 12* or short form 12* or shortform 12* or shortform12*).ti,ab.
76.	(sf8* or sf 8* or short form 8* or shortform 8* or shortform8*).ti,ab.
77.	(sf6* or sf 6* or short form 6* or shortform 6* or shortform6*).ti,ab.
78.	or/57-77
79.	29 and 43
80.	29 and 56
81.	29 and 78

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NHS EED and HTA (CRD) search terms

#1.	MeSH DESCRIPTOR Borrelia Infections EXPLODE ALL TREES IN NHSEED,HTA
#2.	MeSH DESCRIPTOR Erythema Chronicum Migrans EXPLODE ALL TREES IN NHSEED,HTA
#3.	((erythema adj3 migrans)) IN NHSEED, HTA
#4.	(lyme*) IN NHSEED, HTA
#5.	((tick* adj2 (bite* or bitten or biting or borne))) IN NHSEED, HTA
#6.	(acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans) IN NHSEED, HTA
#7.	MeSH DESCRIPTOR Ixodidae EXPLODE ALL TREES IN NHSEED,HTA
#8.	((borreliosis or borrelia* or neuroborreliosis or ixodidae or ixodes or b burgdorferi or b afzelii or b garinii or b bissetii or b valaisiana or b microti)) IN NHSEED, HTA
#9.	((granulocytic anaplasmosis or babesia or babesiosis)) IN NHSEED, HTA
#10.	MeSH DESCRIPTOR Lyme Disease EXPLODE ALL TREES IN NHSEED,HTA

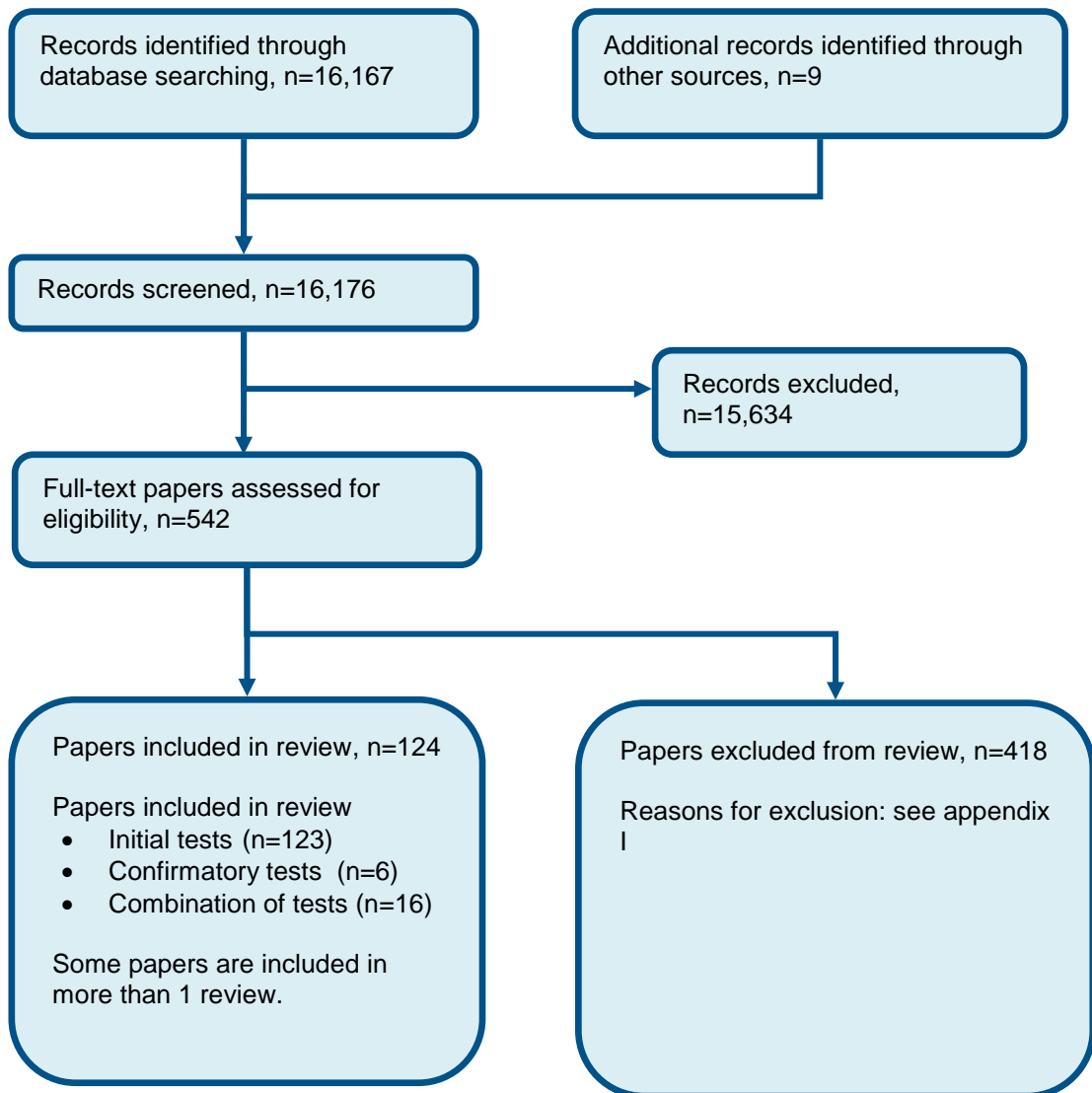
#11.	#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10
------	---

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Appendix C: Clinical evidence selection

Figure 1: Flow chart of clinical study selection for the reviews of initial tests, confirmatory tests and combination of tests for Lyme disease



3

Appendix D: Clinical evidence tables

Please see appendix D in a separate document.

Appendix E: Coupled sensitivity and specificity forest plots

E.1 Initial tests: Coupled sensitivity and specificity forest plots for adults

E.1.1 Evidence from cross-sectional studies

E.1.1.1 Neuroborreliosis

Figure 2: ELISA (IgM/IgG)

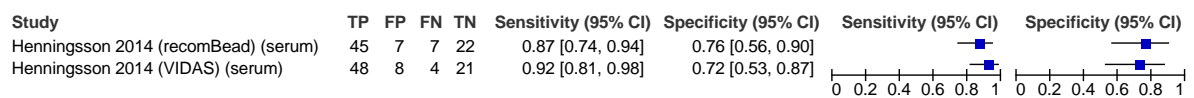


Figure 3: ELISA (IgG) – antibody index

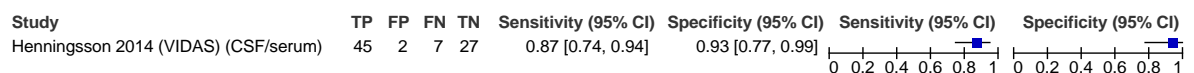


Figure 4: ELISA (IgM/IgG) – antibody index

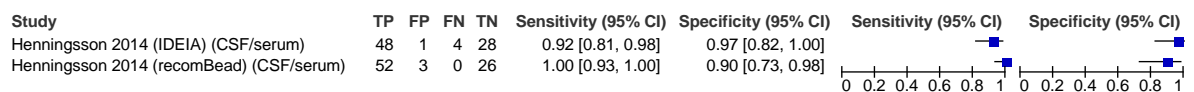


Figure 5: ELISA C6

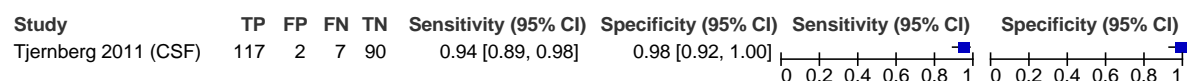


Figure 6: ELISPOT

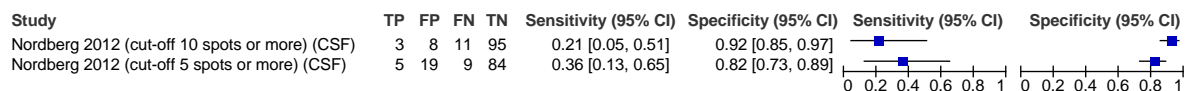
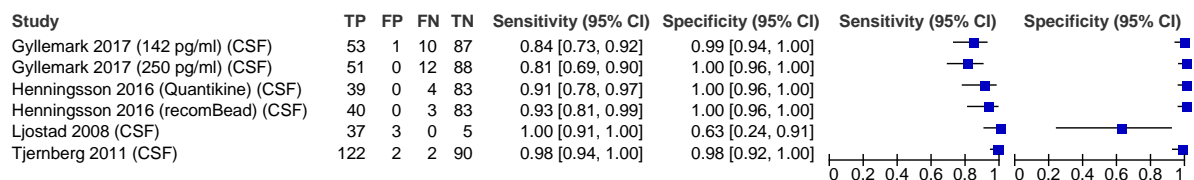


Figure 7: CXCL13



1 E.1.1.2 Unspecified Lyme disease

Figure 8: ELISA (IgM)

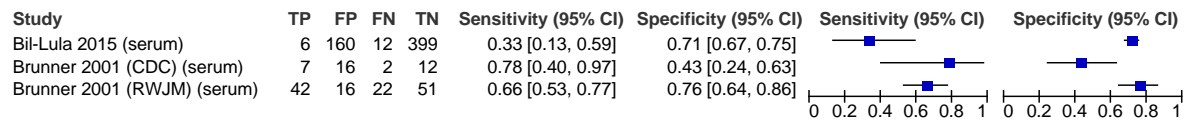


Figure 9: ELISA (IgG)

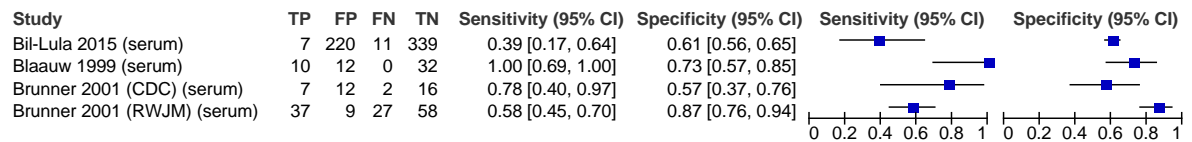


Figure 10: ELISA (IgM/IgG)

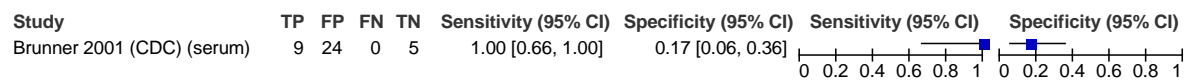


Figure 11: Immunoblot (IgM)

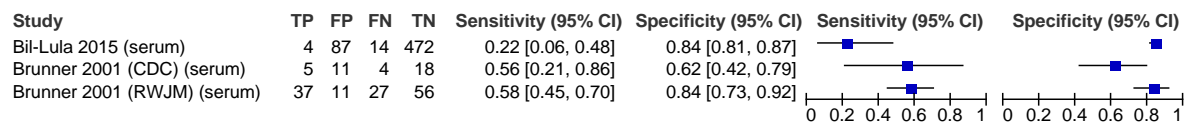
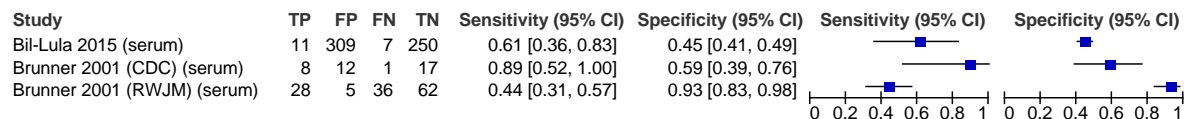


Figure 12: Immunoblot (IgG)



1 E.1.2 Evidence from case-control studies

2 E.1.2.1 Erythema migrans (EM)

Figure 13: ELISA (IgM)

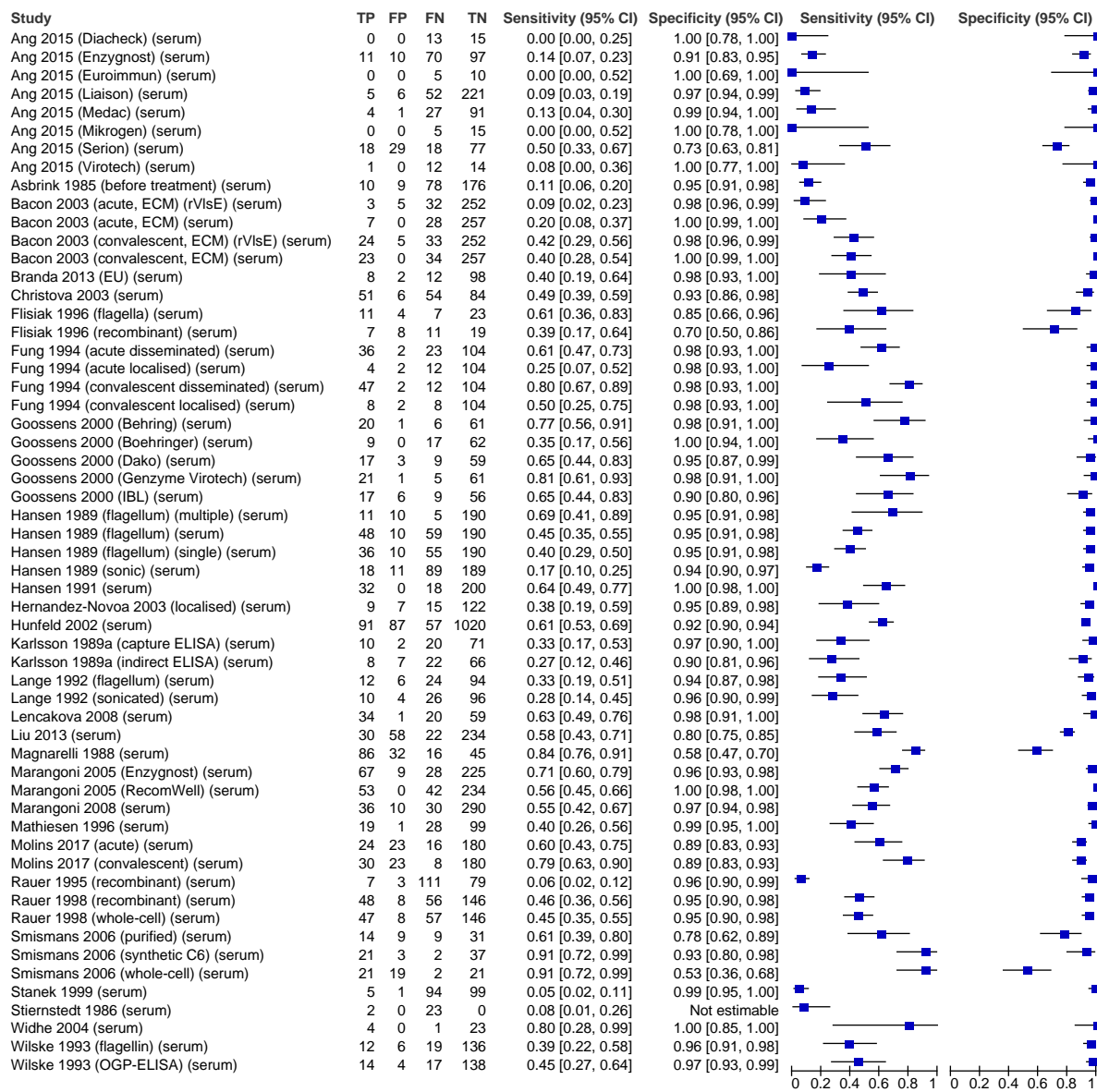


Figure 14: ELISA (IgG)

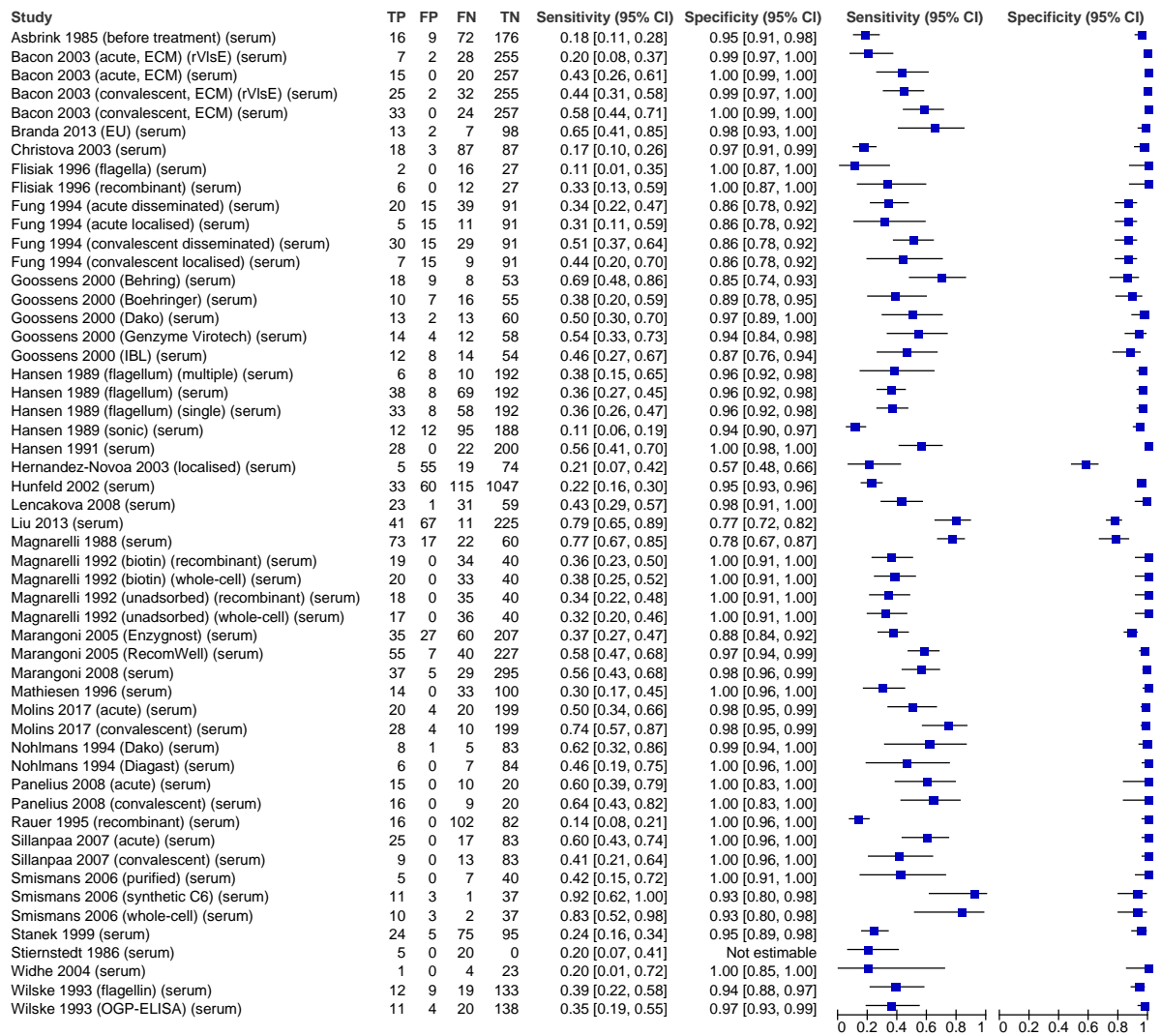


Figure 15: ELISA (IgM/IgG)

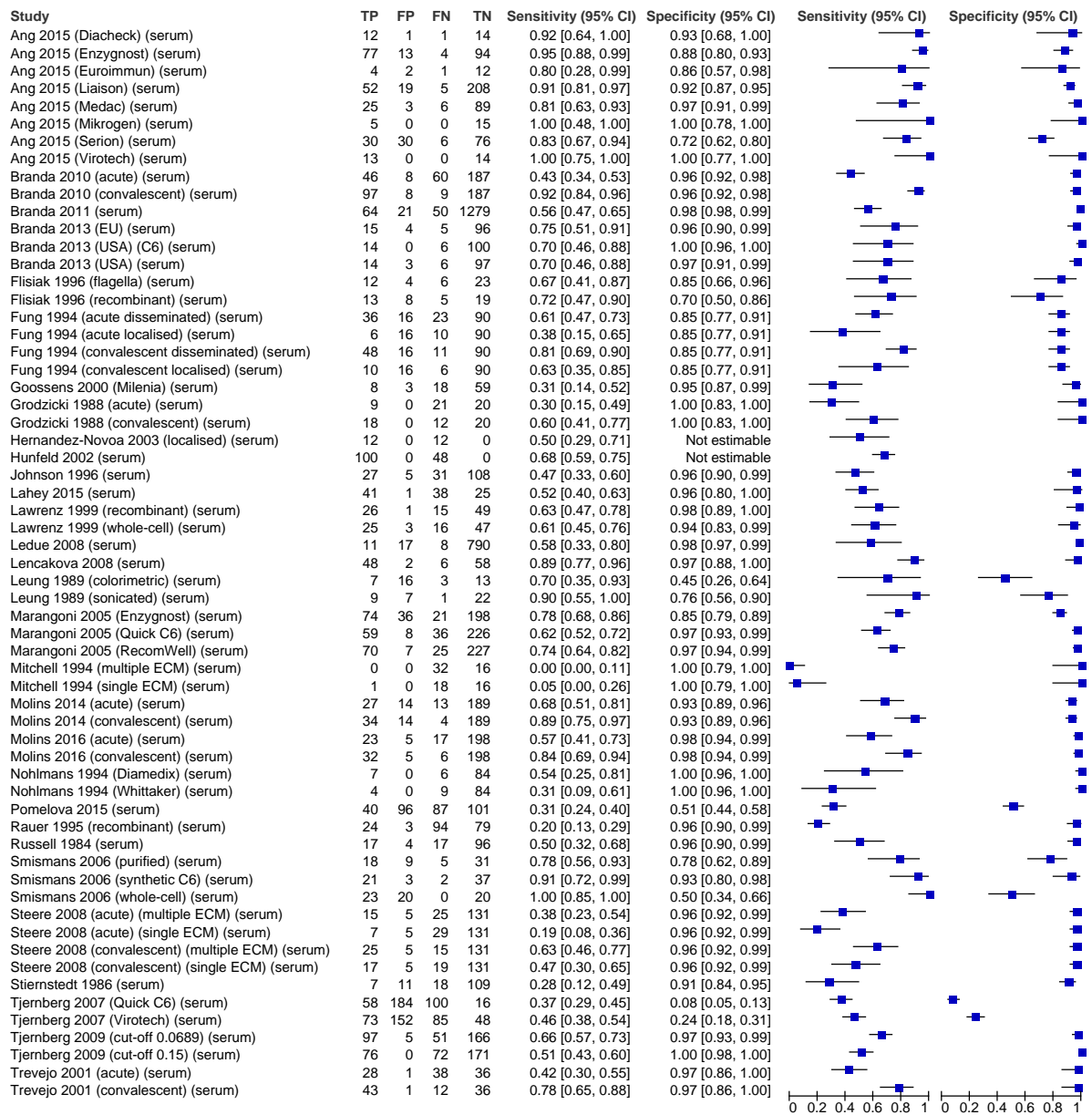


Figure 16: ELISA C6

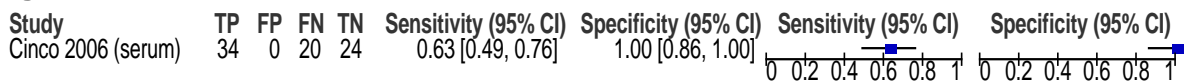


Figure 17: ELISA C6 (IgA)

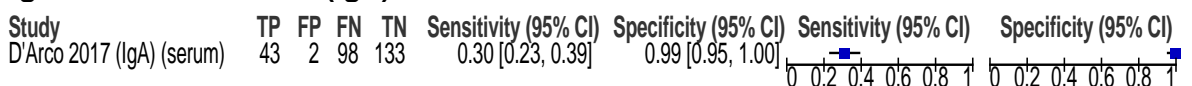


Figure 18: ELFA

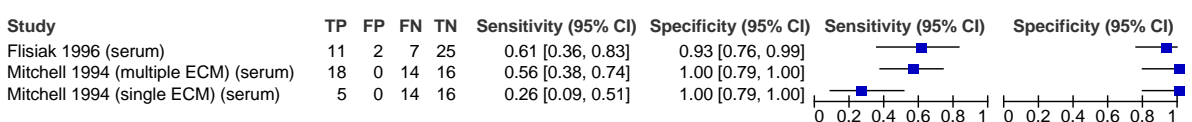


Figure 19: CLIA (IgM)

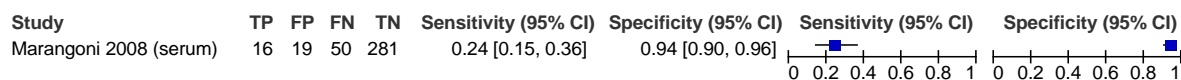


Figure 20: CLIA (IgG)

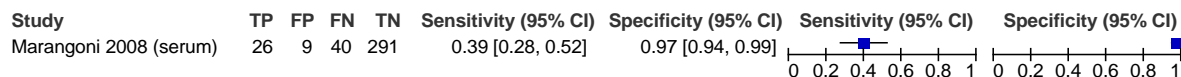


Figure 21: CLIA (IgM/IgG)

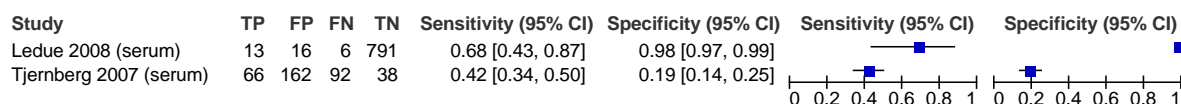


Figure 22: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)

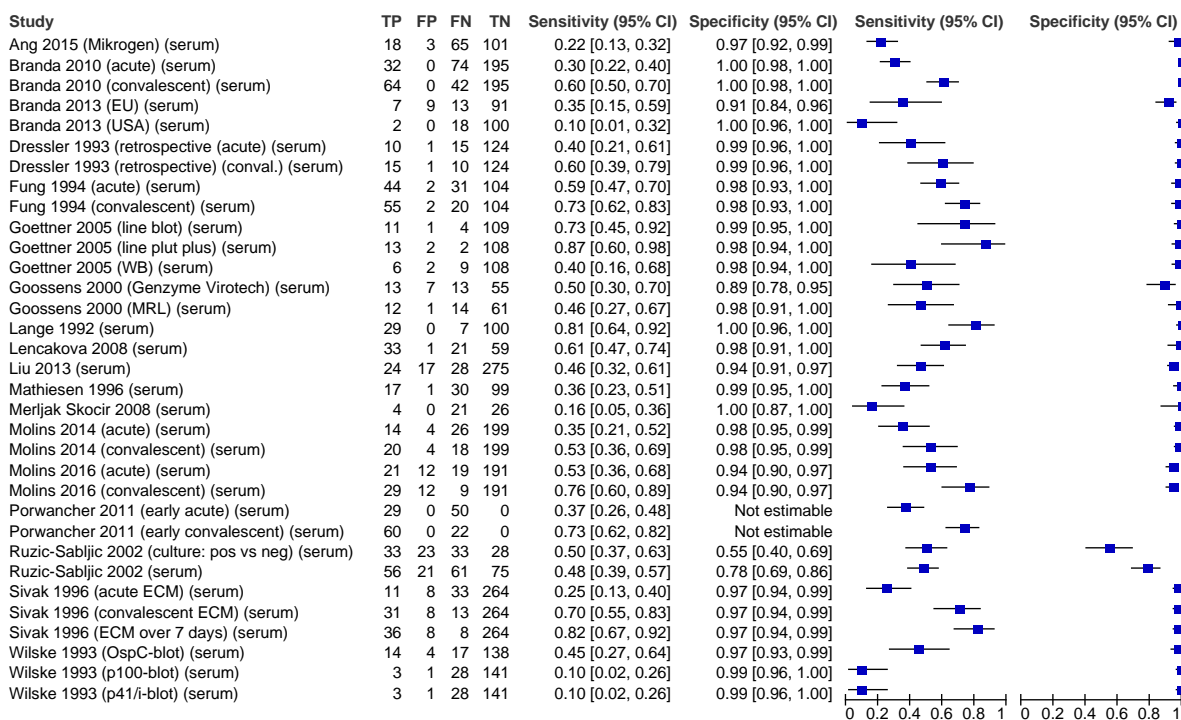


Figure 23: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)

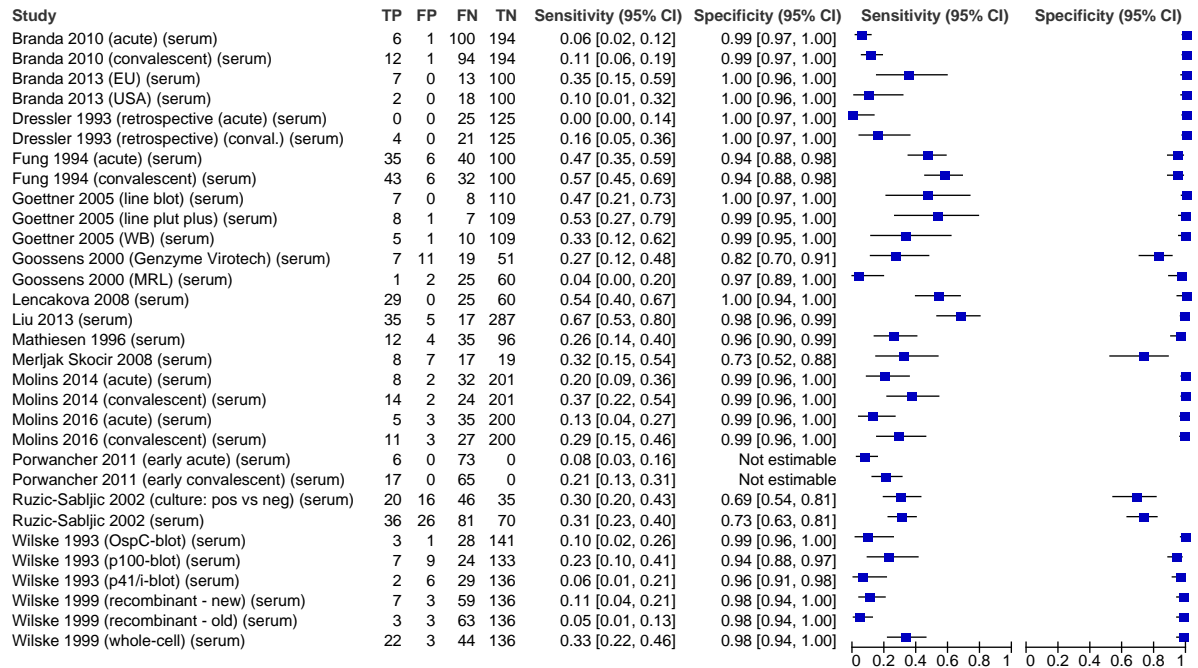


Figure 24: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

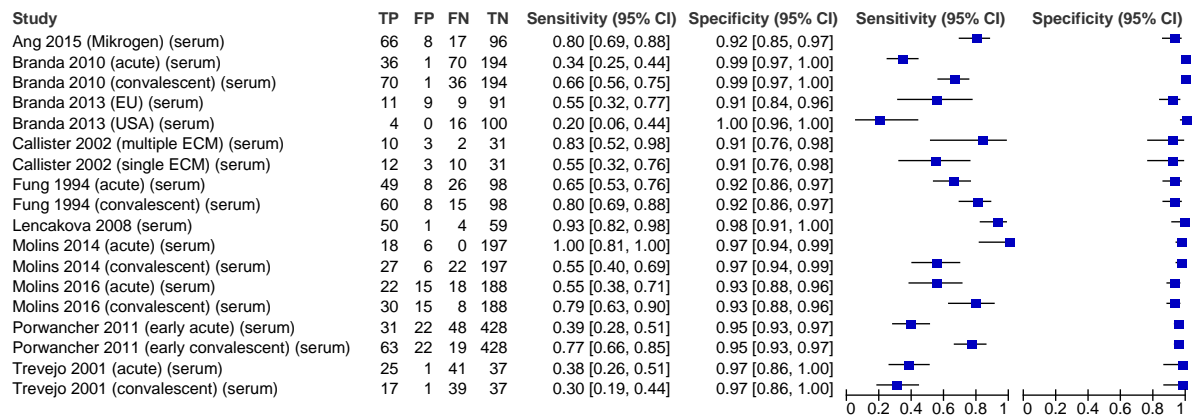


Figure 25: IFA (IgM)

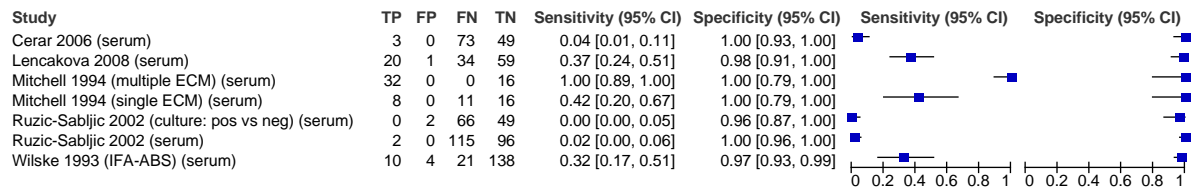


Figure 26: IFA (IgG)

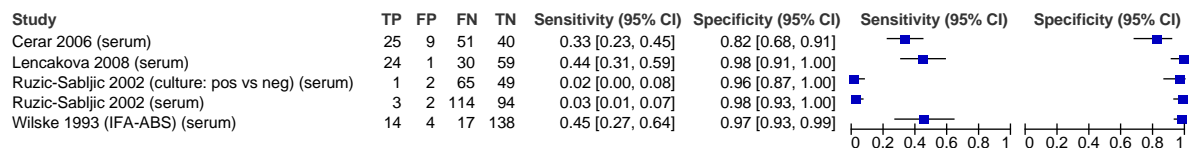


Figure 27: IFA (IgM/IgG)

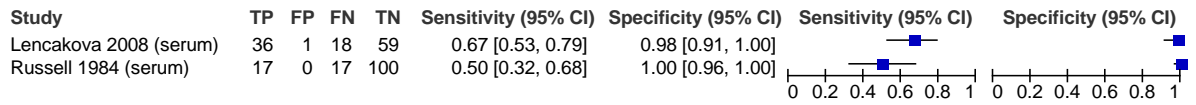


Figure 28: IFA

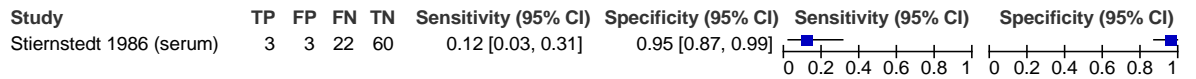


Figure 29: PCR

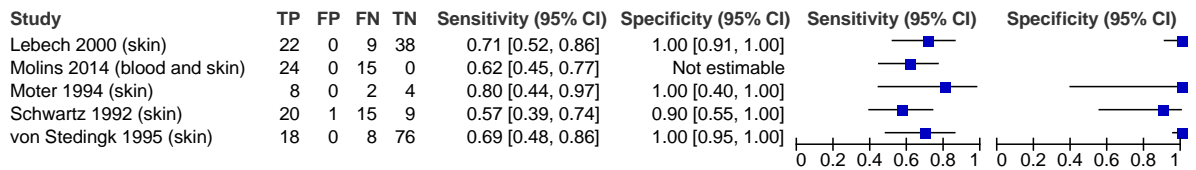
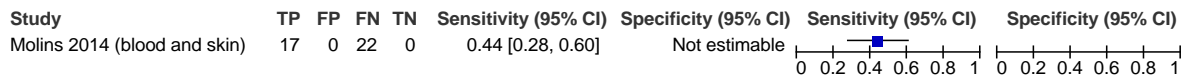


Figure 30: Culture



1 E.1.2.2 Neuroborreliosis

Figure 31: ELISA (IgM)

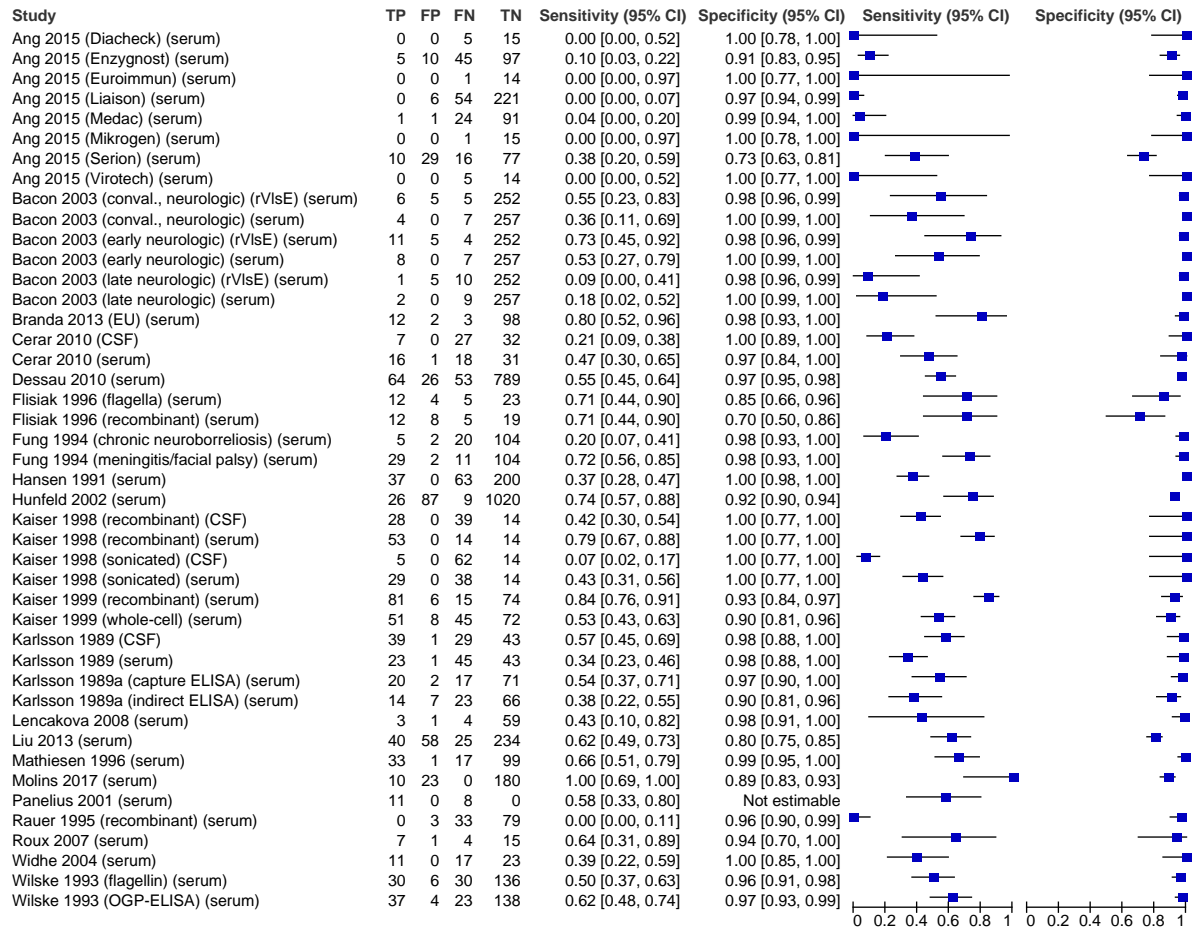


Figure 32: ELISA (IgG)

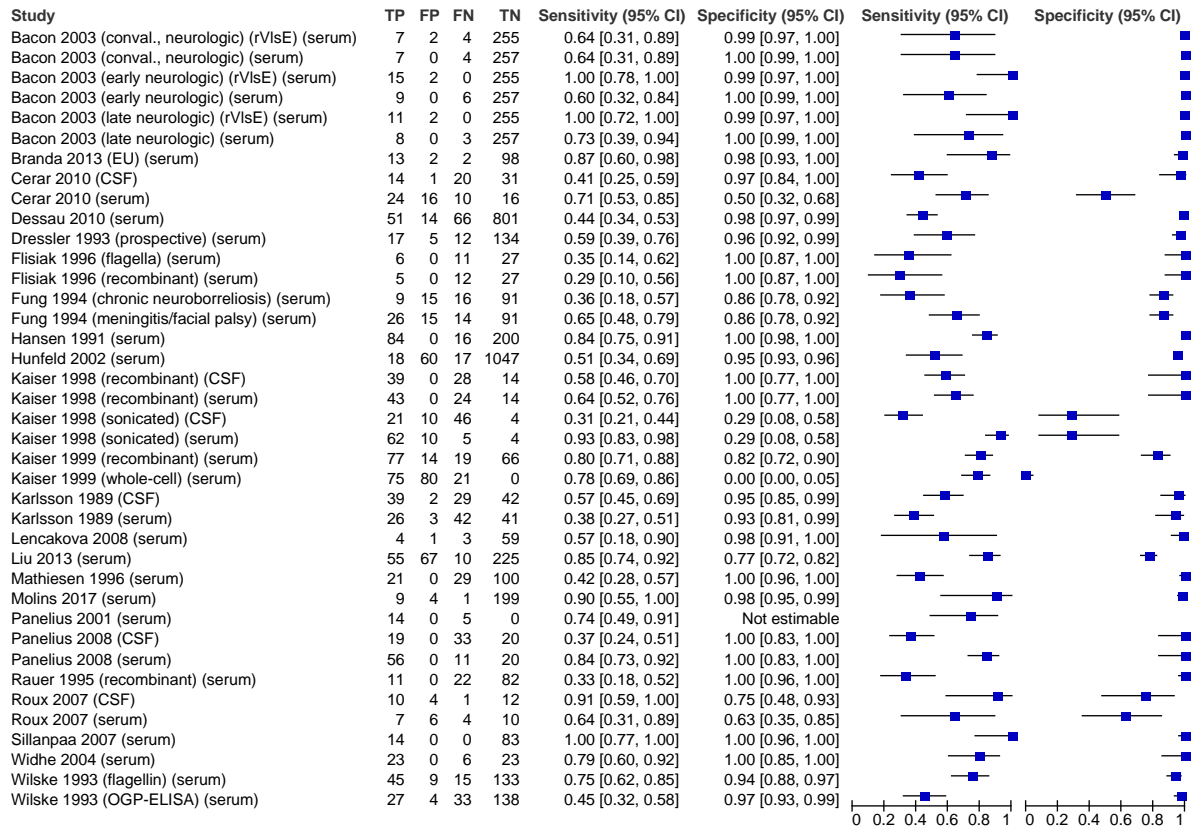


Figure 33: ELISA (IgM/IgG)

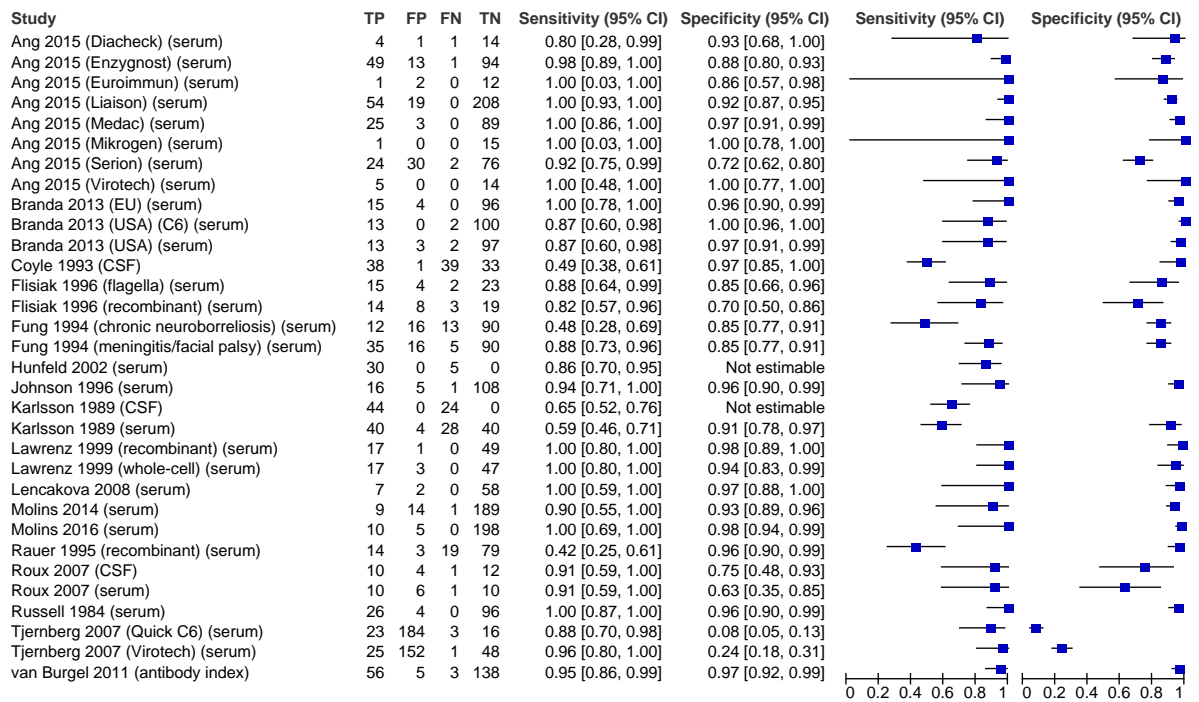


Figure 34: ELISA C6

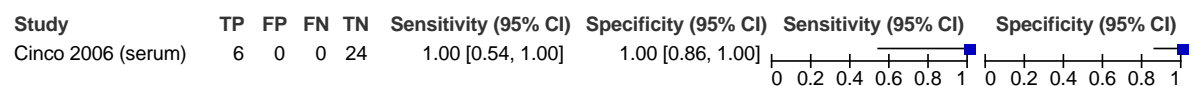


Figure 35: ELFA

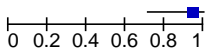
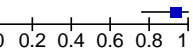
Study	TP	FP	FN	TN	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Flisiak 1996 (serum)	16	2	1	25	0.94 [0.71, 1.00]	0.93 [0.76, 0.99]		

Figure 36: CLIA (IgM/IgG)

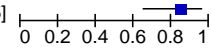
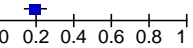
Study	TP	FP	FN	TN	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Tjernberg 2007 (serum)	22	162	4	38	0.85 [0.65, 0.96]	0.19 [0.14, 0.25]		

Figure 37: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/)

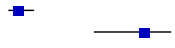



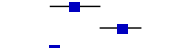

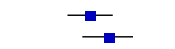



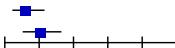
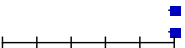
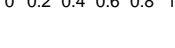
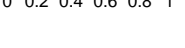



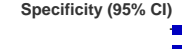




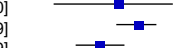

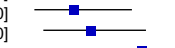

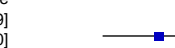



Study	TP	FP	FN	TN	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen) (serum)	5	3	62	101	0.07 [0.02, 0.17]	0.97 [0.92, 0.99]		
Branda 2013 (EU) (serum)	12	9	3	91	0.80 [0.52, 0.96]	0.91 [0.84, 0.96]		
Branda 2013 (USA) (serum)	6	0	9	100	0.40 [0.16, 0.68]	1.00 [0.96, 1.00]		
Goettner 2005 (line blot) (serum)	23	1	27	109	0.46 [0.32, 0.61]	0.99 [0.95, 1.00]		
Goettner 2005 (line blot plus) (serum)	35	2	15	108	0.70 [0.55, 0.82]	0.98 [0.94, 1.00]		
Goettner 2005 (WB) (serum)	20	2	30	108	0.40 [0.26, 0.55]	0.98 [0.94, 1.00]		
Karlsson 1989 (serum)	46	5	22	39	0.68 [0.55, 0.78]	0.89 [0.75, 0.96]		
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	2	1	5	59	0.29 [0.04, 0.71]	0.98 [0.91, 1.00]		
Liu 2013 (serum)	32	17	33	275	0.49 [0.37, 0.62]	0.94 [0.91, 0.97]		
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	30	1	20	99	0.60 [0.45, 0.74]	0.99 [0.95, 1.00]		
Molins 2014 (serum)	10	4	0	199	1.00 [0.69, 1.00]	0.98 [0.95, 0.99]		
Molins 2016 (serum)	9	12	1	191	0.90 [0.55, 1.00]	0.94 [0.90, 0.97]		
Wilske 1993 (OspC-blot) (serum)	26	4	34	138	0.43 [0.31, 0.57]	0.97 [0.93, 0.99]		
Wilske 1993 (p100-blot) (serum)	7	1	53	141	0.12 [0.05, 0.23]	0.99 [0.96, 1.00]		
Wilske 1993 (p41/i-blot) (serum)	12	1	48	141	0.20 [0.11, 0.32]	0.99 [0.96, 1.00]		

Figure 38: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)

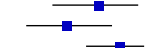







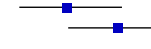

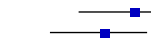
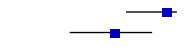
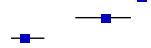




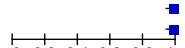
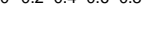
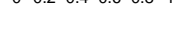


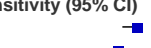
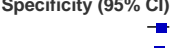
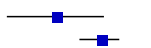
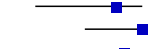

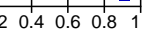
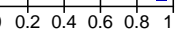












Study	TP	FP	FN	TN	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Branda 2013 (EU) (serum)	9	0	6	100	0.60 [0.32, 0.84]	1.00 [0.96, 1.00]		
Branda 2013 (USA) (serum)	6	0	9	100	0.40 [0.16, 0.68]	1.00 [0.96, 1.00]		
Dressler 1993 (prospective) (serum)	21	7	8	132	0.72 [0.53, 0.87]	0.95 [0.90, 0.98]		
Goettner 2005 (line blot) (serum)	43	0	7	110	0.86 [0.73, 0.94]	1.00 [0.97, 1.00]		
Goettner 2005 (line blot plus) (serum)	44	1	6	109	0.88 [0.76, 0.95]	0.99 [0.95, 1.00]		
Goettner 2005 (WB) (serum)	36	1	14	109	0.72 [0.58, 0.84]	0.99 [0.95, 1.00]		
Karlsson 1989 (serum)	44	5	24	39	0.65 [0.52, 0.76]	0.89 [0.75, 0.96]		
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	4	0	3	60	0.57 [0.18, 0.90]	1.00 [0.94, 1.00]		
Liu 2013 (serum)	45	5	20	287	0.69 [0.57, 0.80]	0.98 [0.96, 0.99]		
Mathiesen 1996 (serum)	23	4	27	96	0.46 [0.32, 0.61]	0.96 [0.90, 0.99]		
Molins 2014 (serum)	3	2	7	201	0.30 [0.07, 0.65]	0.99 [0.96, 1.00]		
Molins 2016 (serum)	4	3	6	200	0.40 [0.12, 0.74]	0.99 [0.96, 1.00]		
Panelius 2001 (serum)	10	0	4	0	0.71 [0.42, 0.92]	Not estimable		
Peltomaa 2004 (serum)	47	4	0	82	1.00 [0.92, 1.00]	0.95 [0.89, 0.99]		
Roux 2007 (CSF)	9	1	2	15	0.82 [0.48, 0.98]	0.94 [0.70, 1.00]		
Roux 2007 (serum)	7	6	4	10	0.64 [0.31, 0.89]	0.63 [0.35, 0.85]		
Schulte-Spechtel 2004 (recombinant) (serum)	31	0	5	67	0.86 [0.71, 0.95]	1.00 [0.95, 1.00]		
Schulte-Spechtel 2004 (whole-cell) (serum)	23	2	13	65	0.64 [0.46, 0.79]	0.97 [0.90, 1.00]		
Wilske 1993 (OspC-blot) (serum)	9	1	51	141	0.15 [0.07, 0.27]	0.99 [0.96, 1.00]		
Wilske 1993 (p100-blot) (serum)	26	9	34	133	0.43 [0.31, 0.57]	0.94 [0.88, 0.97]		
Wilske 1993 (p41/i-blot) (serum)	15	6	45	136	0.25 [0.15, 0.38]	0.96 [0.91, 0.98]		
Wilske 1999 (recombinant - new) (serum)	19	3	23	136	0.45 [0.30, 0.61]	0.98 [0.94, 1.00]		
Wilske 1999 (recombinant - old) (serum)	12	3	30	136	0.29 [0.16, 0.45]	0.98 [0.94, 1.00]		
Wilske 1999 (whole-cell) (serum)	24	3	18	136	0.57 [0.41, 0.72]	0.98 [0.94, 1.00]		

Figure 39: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)




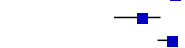
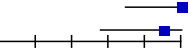
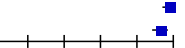
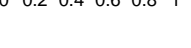
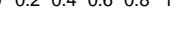



Study	TP	FP	FN	TN	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Ang 2015 (Mikrogen) (serum)	65	8	2	96	0.97 [0.90, 1.00]	0.92 [0.85, 0.97]		
Branda 2013 (EU) (serum)	13	9	2	91	0.87 [0.60, 0.98]	0.91 [0.84, 0.96]		
Branda 2013 (USA) (serum)	8	0	7	100	0.53 [0.27, 0.79]	1.00 [0.96, 1.00]		
Karlsson 1989 (serum)	53	8	15	36	0.78 [0.66, 0.87]	0.82 [0.67, 0.92]		
Lencakova 2008 (serum)	6	1	1	59	0.86 [0.42, 1.00]	0.98 [0.91, 1.00]		
Molins 2014 (serum)	10	6	0	197	1.00 [0.69, 1.00]	0.97 [0.94, 0.99]	 </	

Figure 40: IFA (IgM)

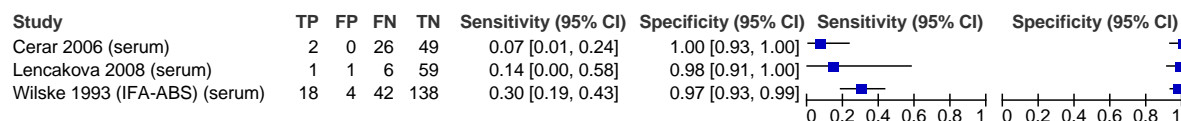


Figure 41: IFA (IgG)

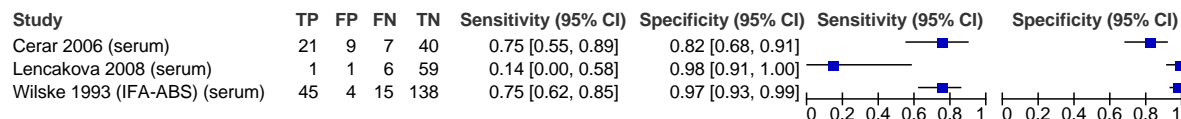


Figure 42: IFA (IgM/IgG)

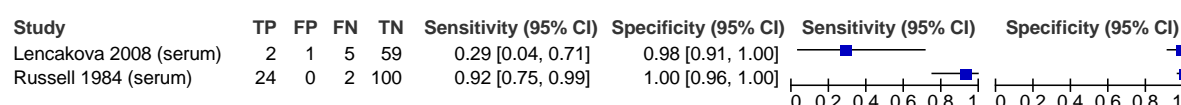


Figure 43: PCR

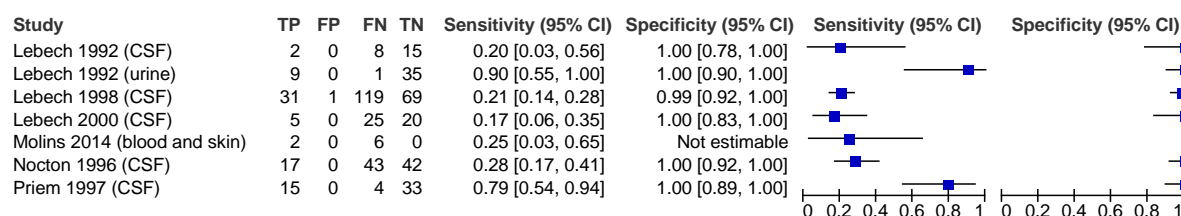


Figure 44: Culture

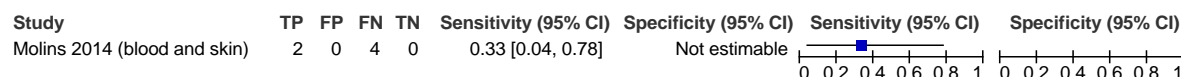
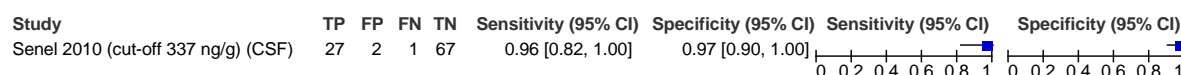


Figure 45: CXCL13



1 E.1.2.3 Lyme arthritis

Figure 46: ELISA (IgM)

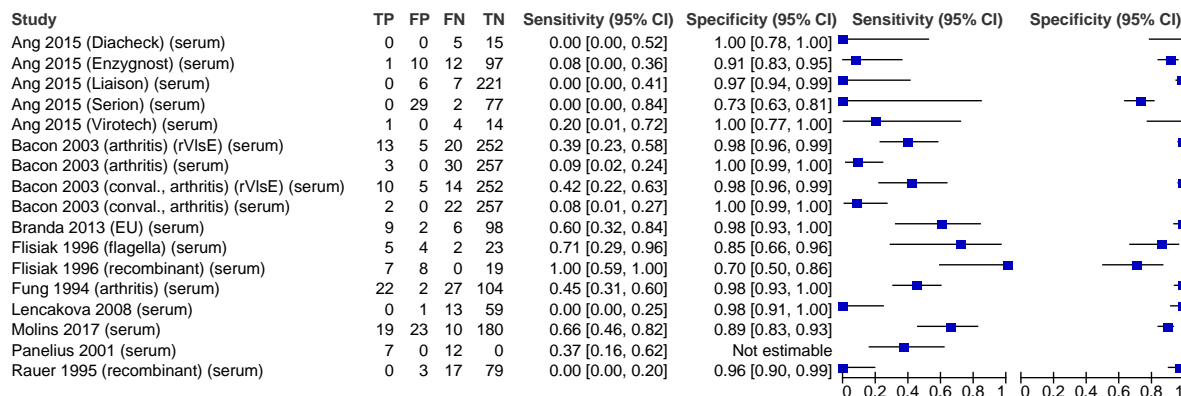


Figure 47: ELISA (IgG)

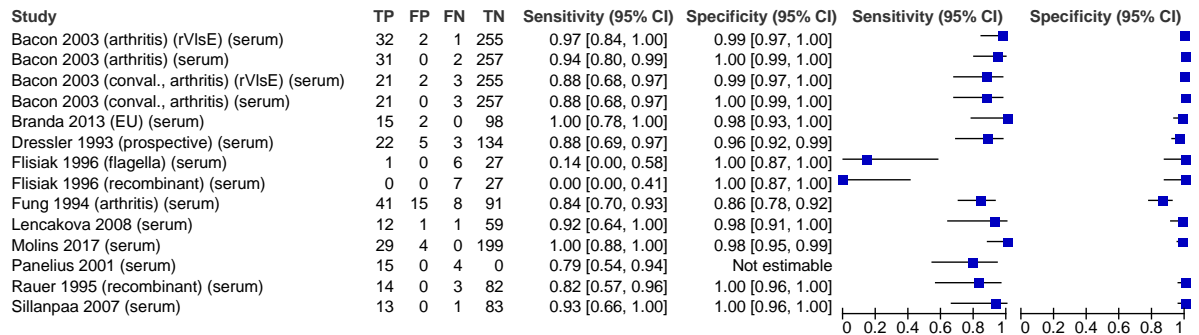


Figure 48: ELISA (IgM/IgG)

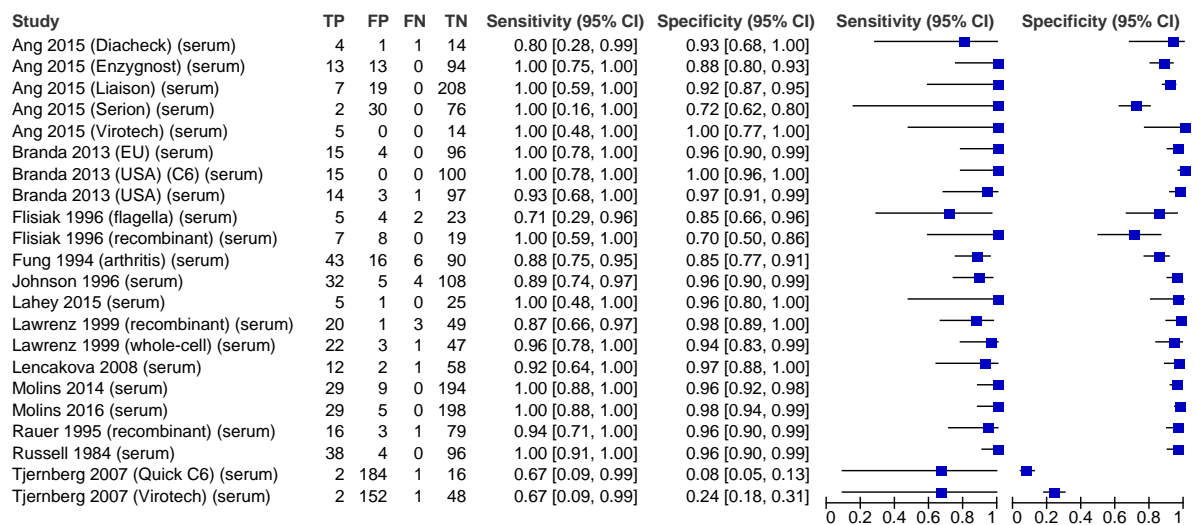


Figure 49: ELISA C6

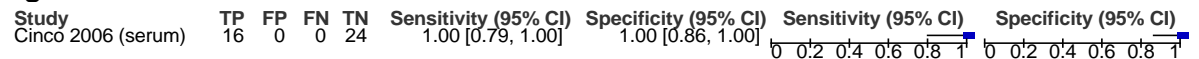


Figure 50: ELISA C6 (IgA)

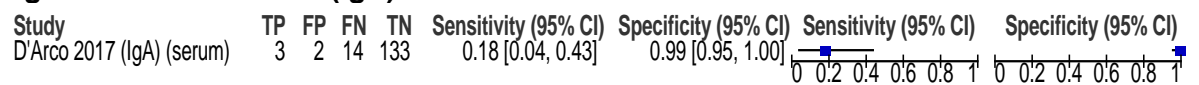


Figure 51: ELFA

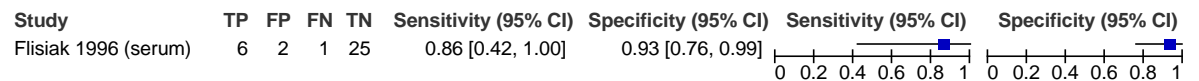


Figure 52: CLIA (IgM/IgG)

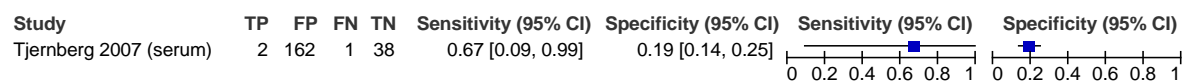


Figure 53: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)

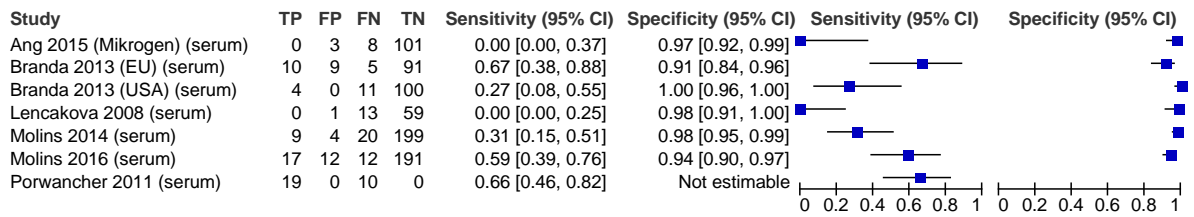


Figure 54: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)

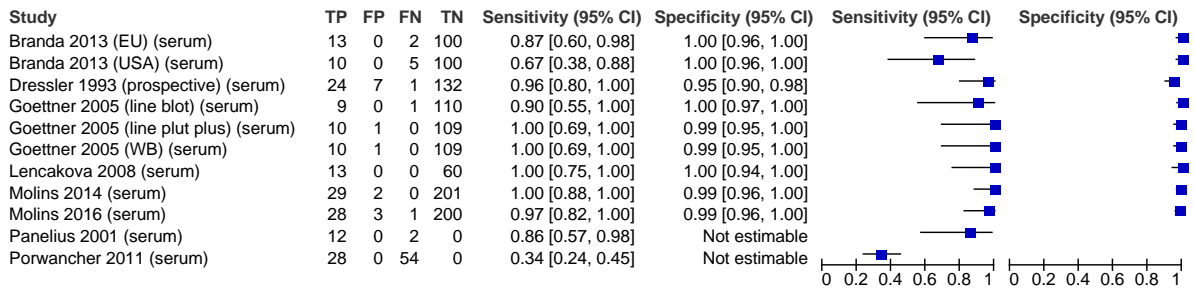


Figure 55: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

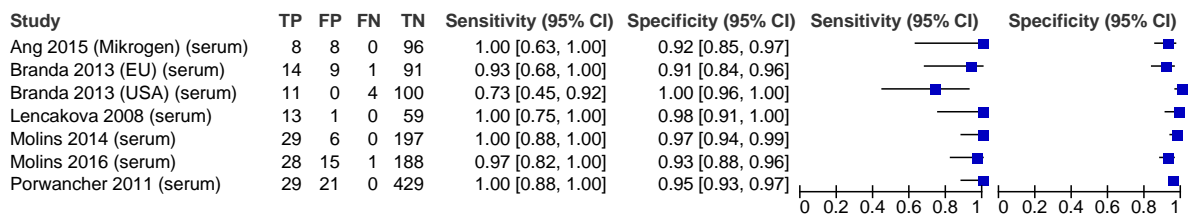


Figure 56: IFA (IgM)

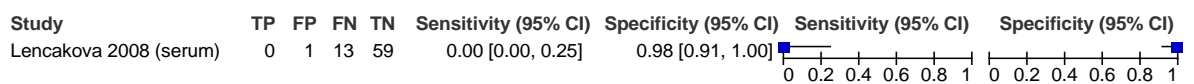


Figure 57: IFA (IgG)

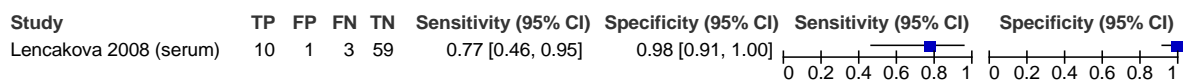


Figure 58: IFA (IgM/IgG)

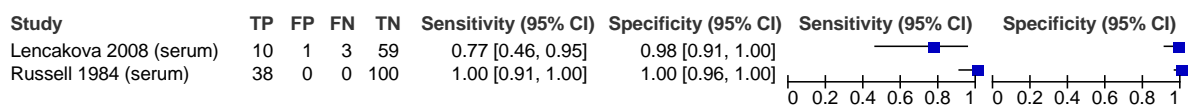
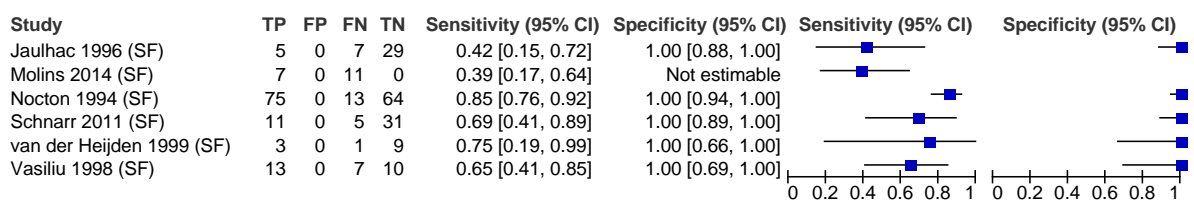


Figure 59: PCR



1 E.1.2.4 Lyme carditis

Figure 60: ELISA (IgM)

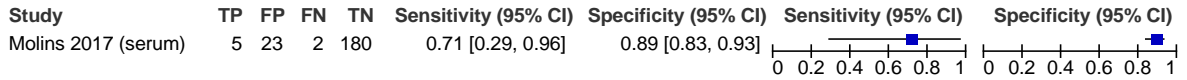


Figure 61: ELISA (IgG)

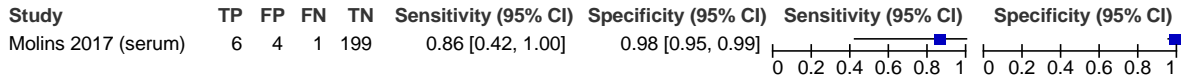


Figure 62: ELISA (IgM/IgG)

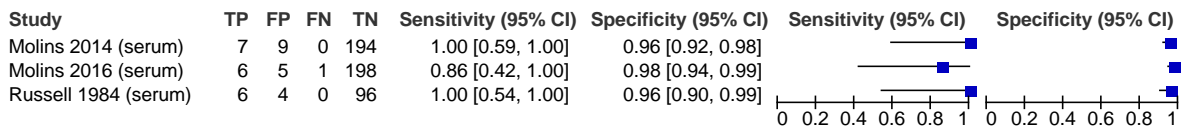


Figure 63: IFA (IgM/IgG)

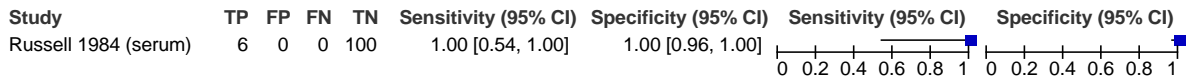


Figure 64: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)

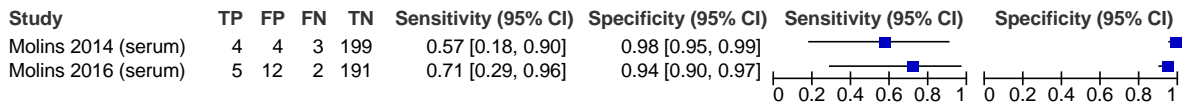


Figure 65: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)

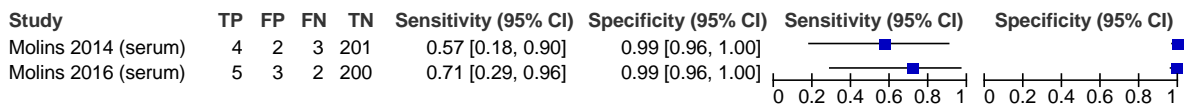


Figure 66: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

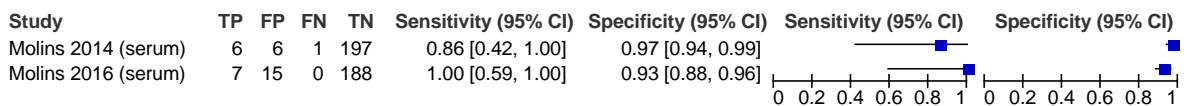


Figure 67: PCR

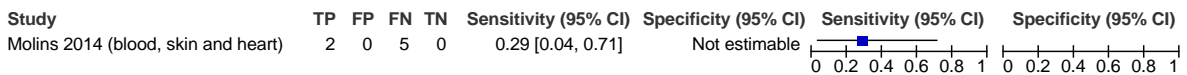
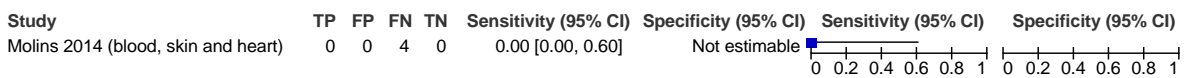


Figure 68: Culture



1 E.1.2.5 Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans (ACA)

Figure 69: ELISA (IgM)

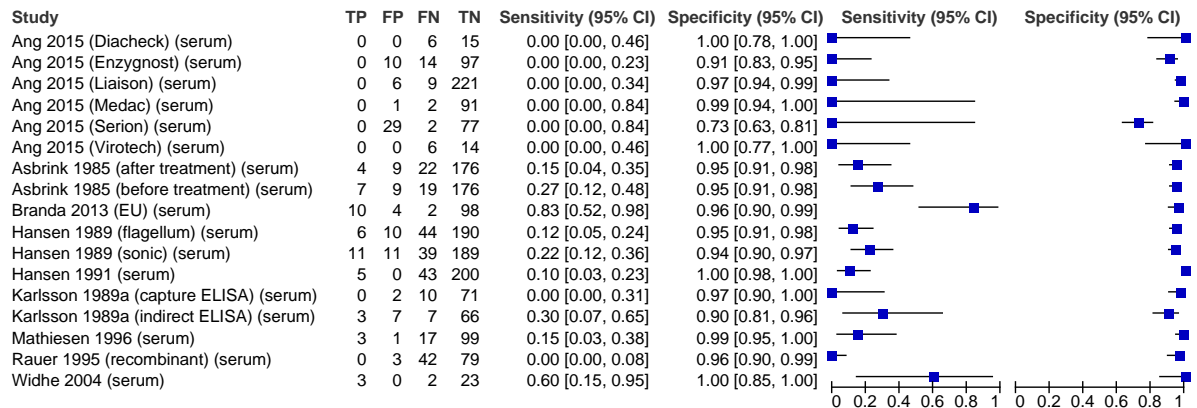


Figure 70: ELISA (IgG)

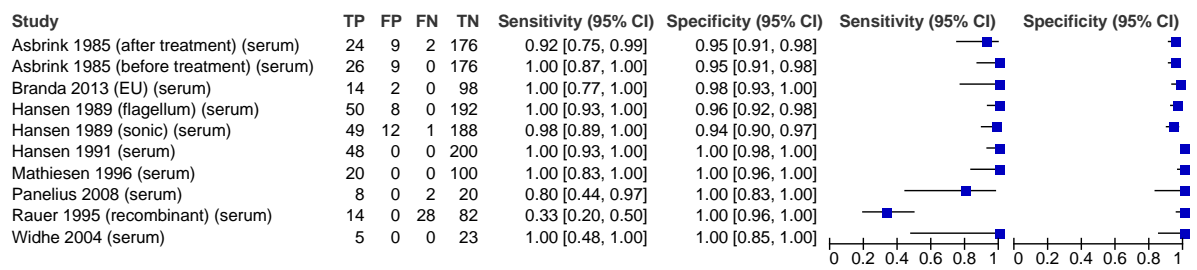


Figure 71: ELISA (IgM/IgG)

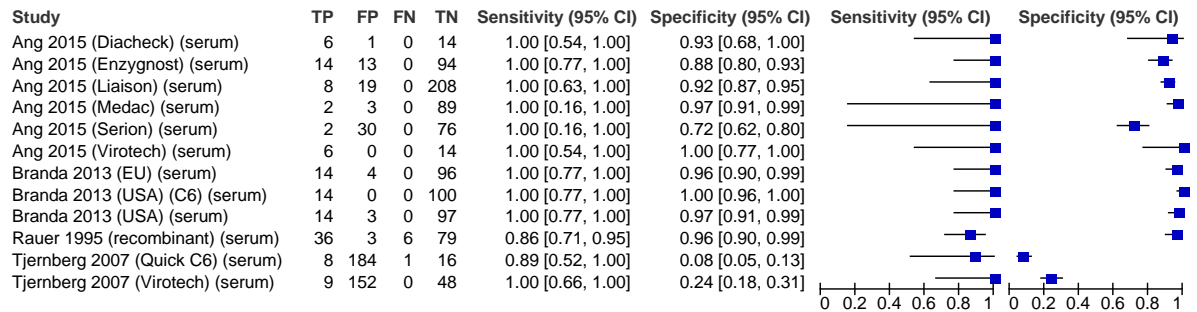


Figure 72: CLIA (IgM/IgG)

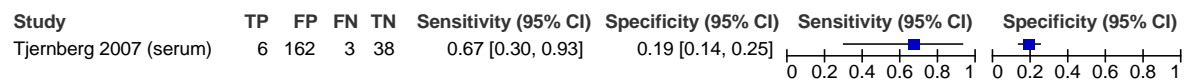


Figure 73: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)

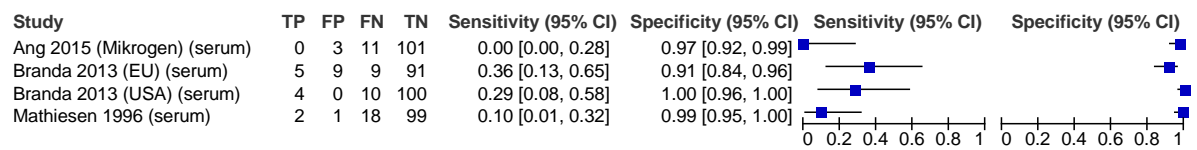


Figure 74: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)

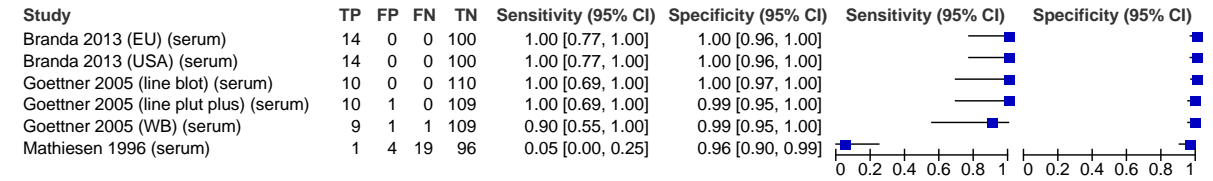


Figure 75: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

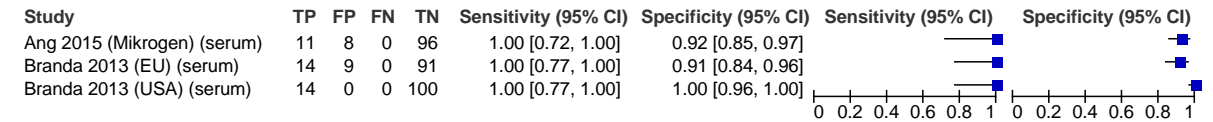
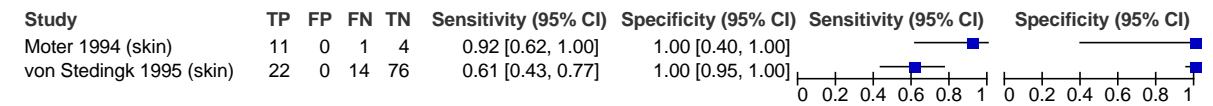


Figure 76: PCR



1 E.1.2.6 Unspecified Lyme disease

Figure 77: ELISA (IgM)

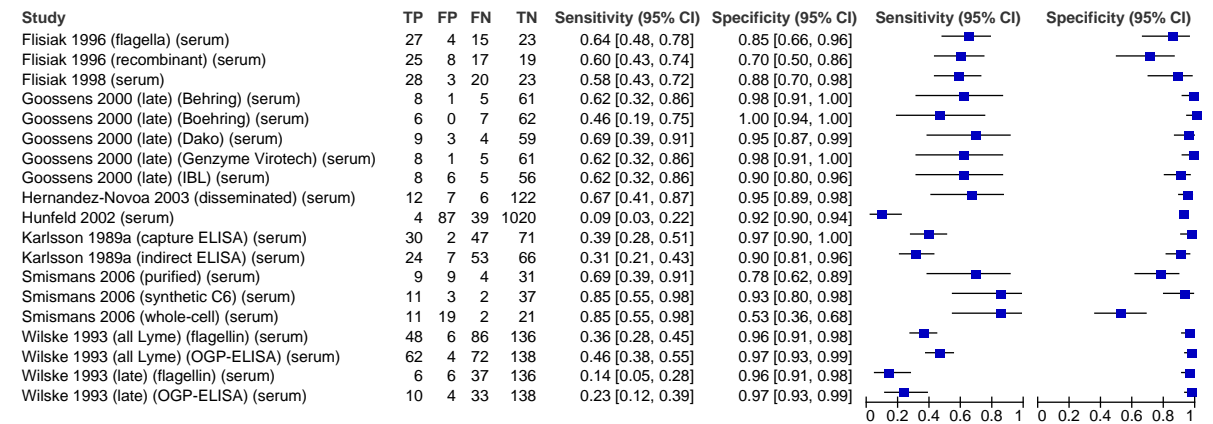


Figure 78: ELISA (IgG)

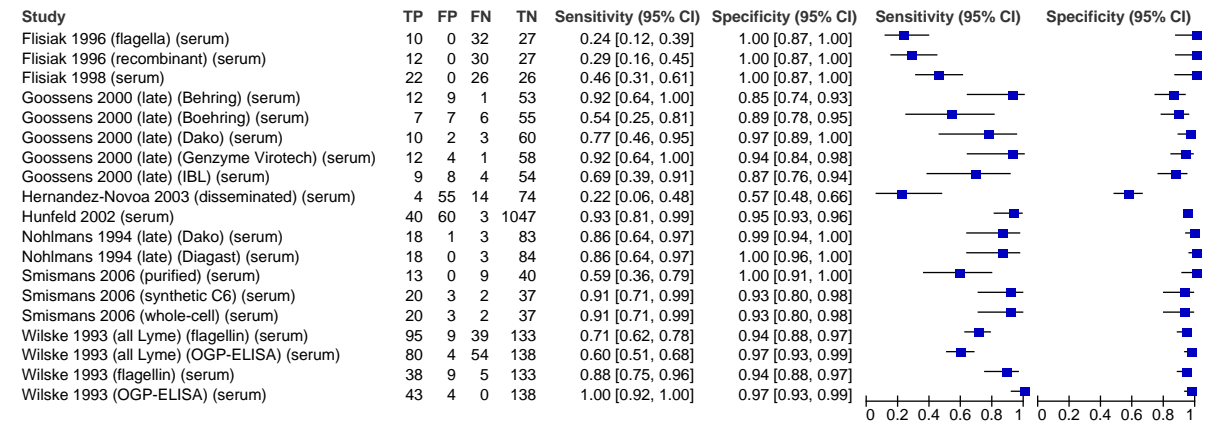


Figure 79: ELISA (IgM/IgG)

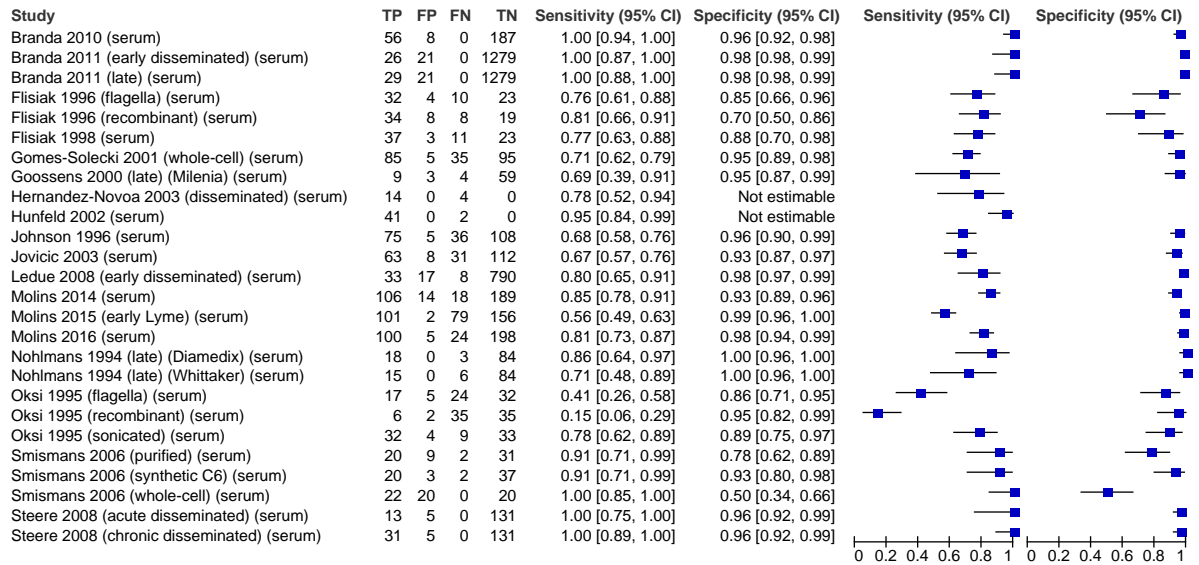


Figure 80: ELFA

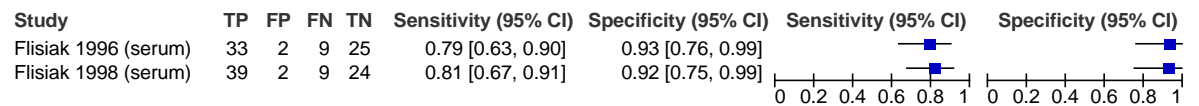


Figure 81: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)

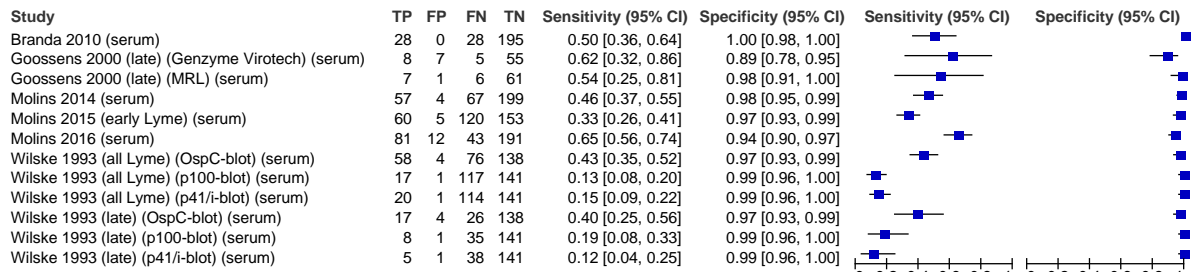


Figure 82: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)

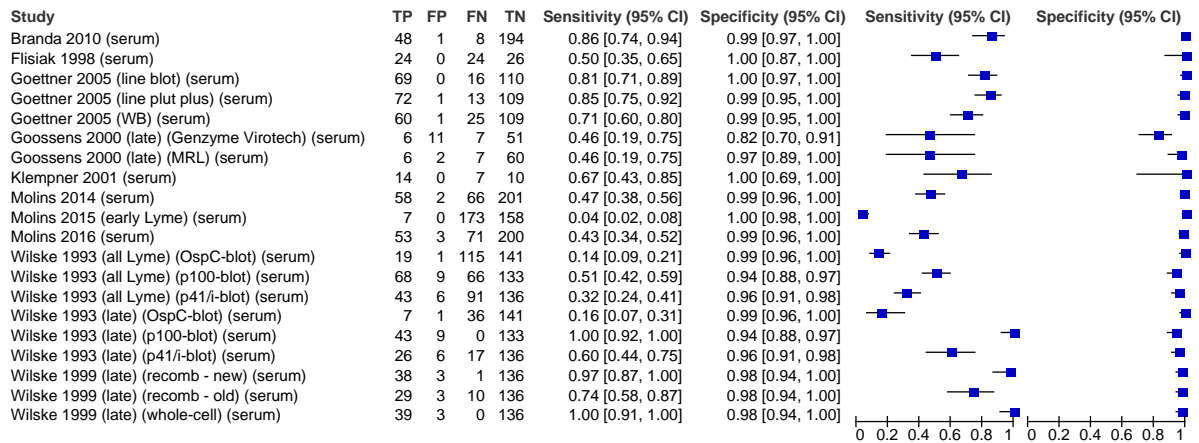


Figure 83: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

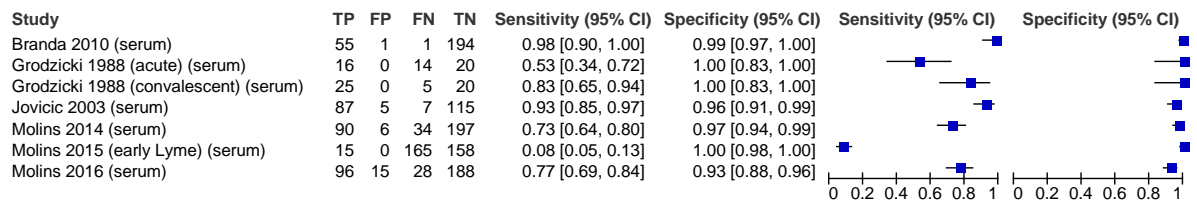


Figure 84: CLIA (IgM/IgG)

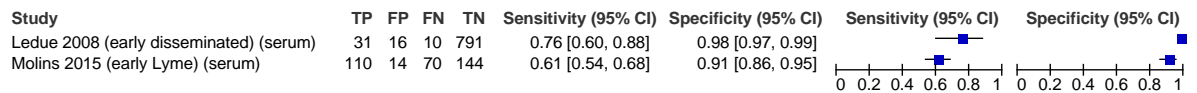


Figure 85: IFA (IgM)

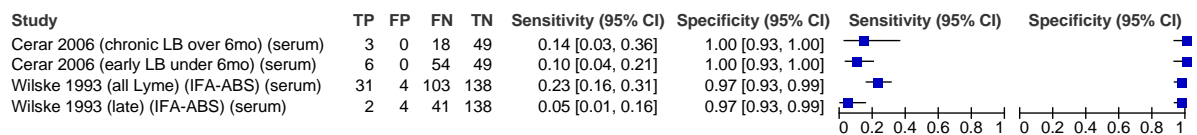


Figure 86: IFA (IgG)

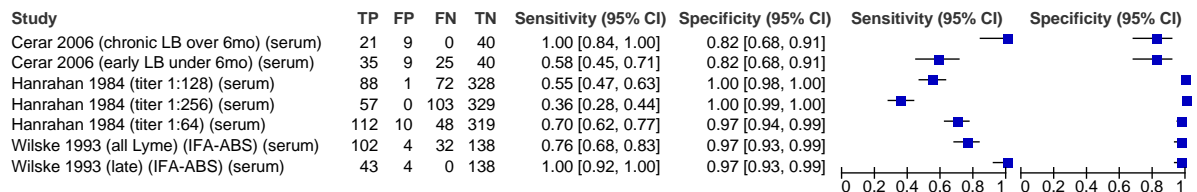


Figure 87: IFA (IgM/IgG)

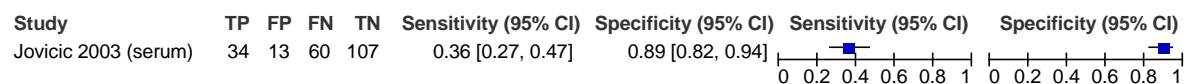


Figure 88: Recombinant Rapid Assay

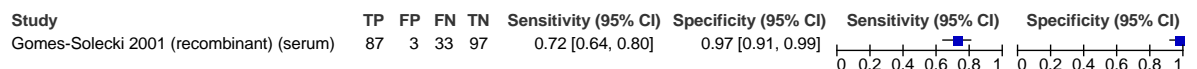


Figure 89: PCR

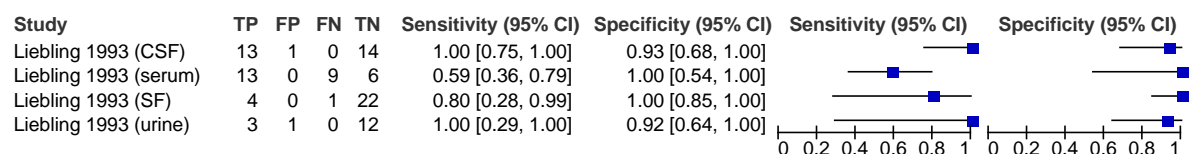


Figure 90: CD57

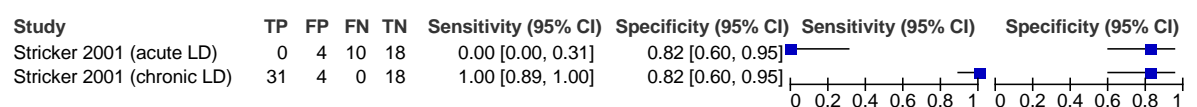


Figure 91: Culture

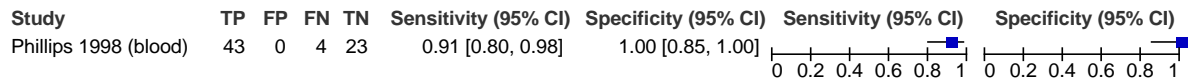
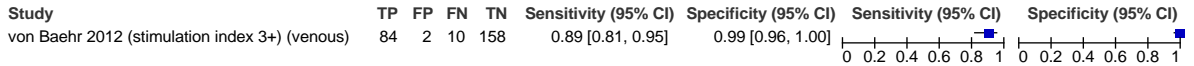


Figure 92: Lymphocyte transformation test



1 E.1.2.7 Post-treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome

Figure 93: ELISA (IgM/IgG)

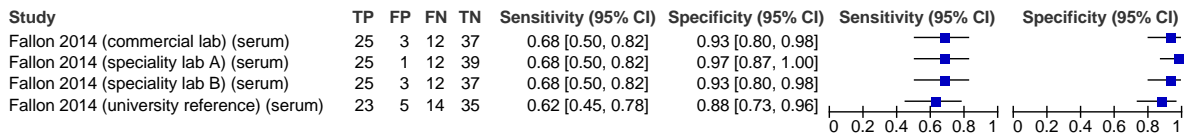


Figure 94: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)

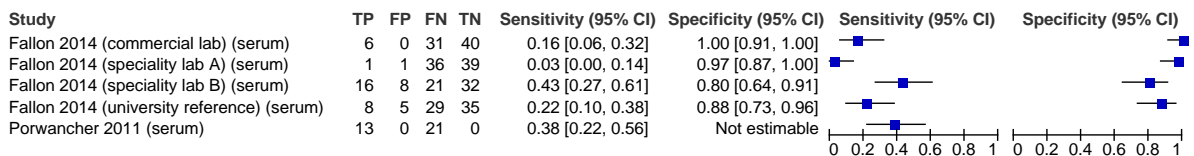


Figure 95: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)

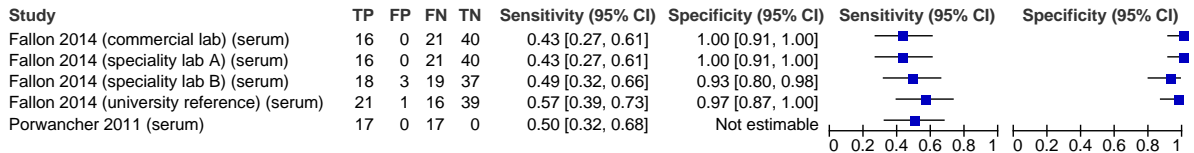
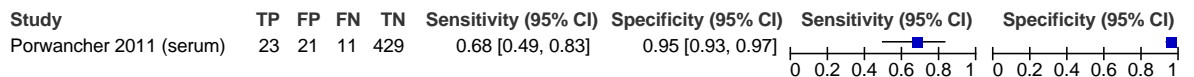


Figure 96: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)



2 E.1.2.8 Analyses by time point (<6 weeks, 6 weeks to 6 months, >6 months)

Figure 97: Less than 6 weeks – ELISA (IgM)

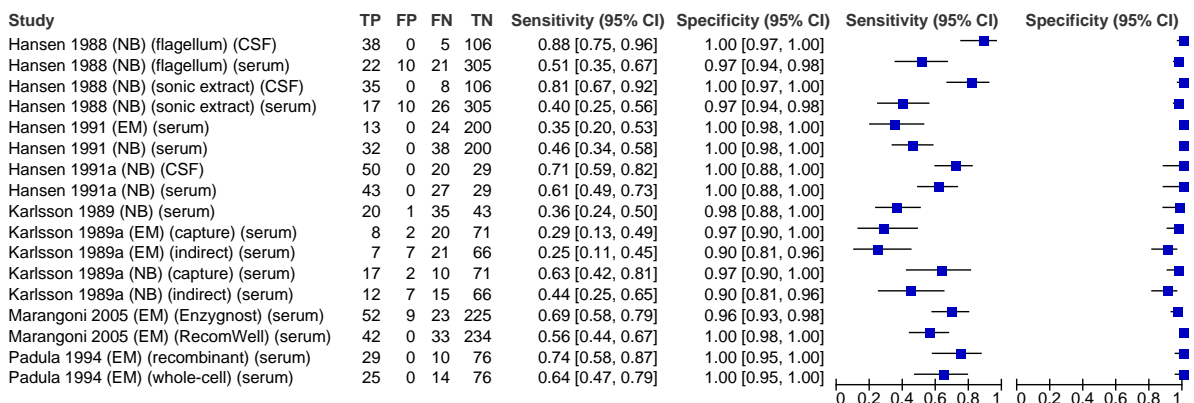


Figure 98: Less than 6 weeks – ELISA (IgG)

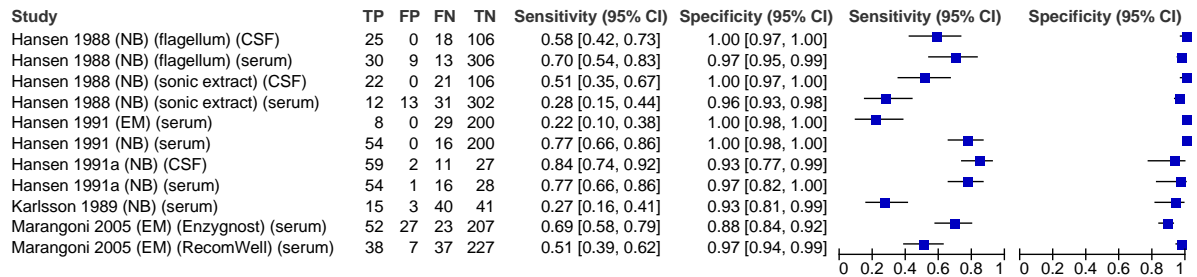


Figure 99: Less than 6 weeks – ELISA (IgM/IgG)

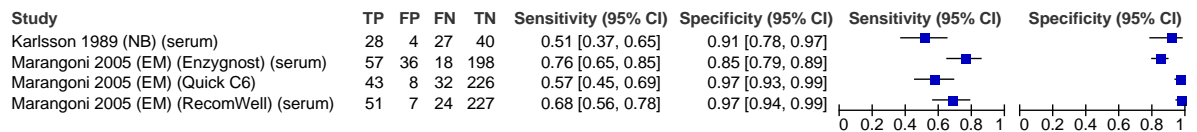


Figure 100: Less than 6 weeks – Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)

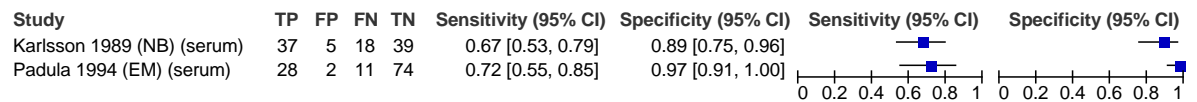


Figure 101: Less than 6 weeks – Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)

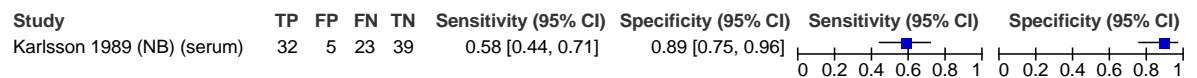


Figure 102: Less than 6 weeks – Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

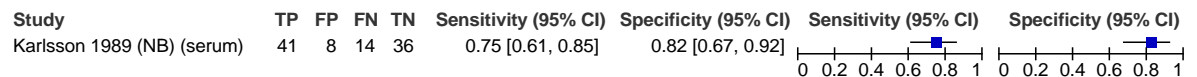


Figure 103: Culture

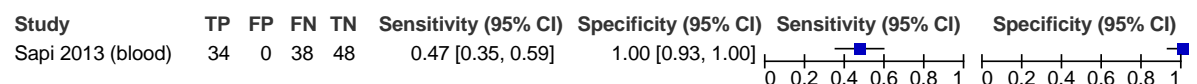


Figure 104: 6 weeks to 6 months – ELISA (IgM)

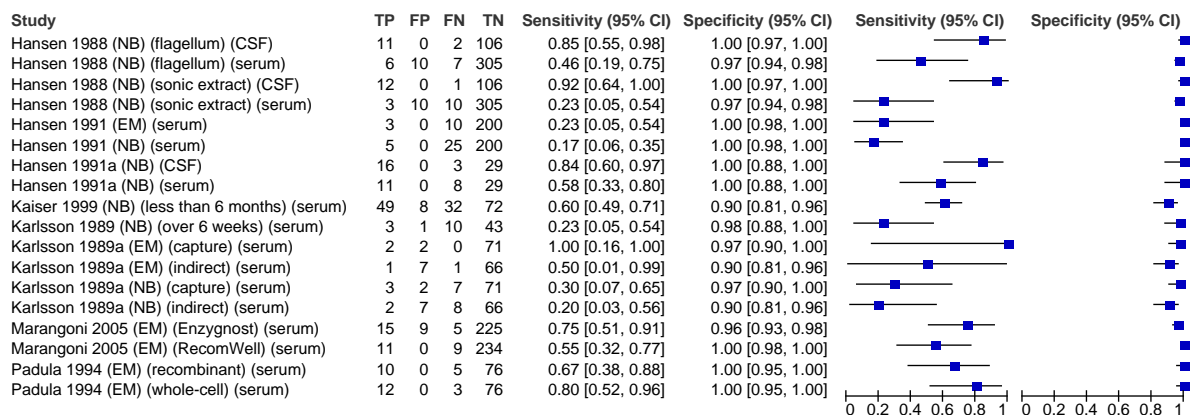


Figure 105: 6 weeks to 6 months – ELISA (IgG)

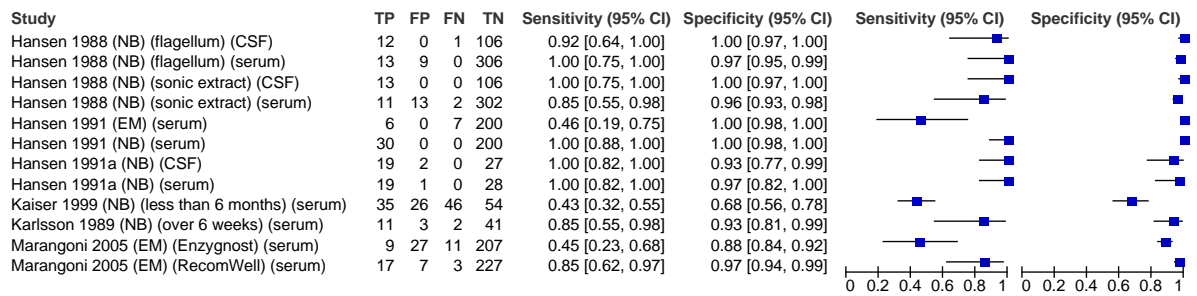


Figure 106: 6 weeks to 6 months – ELISA (IgM/IgG)

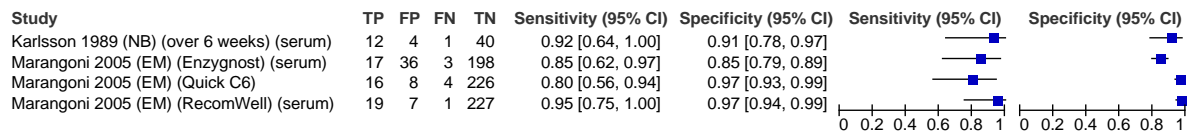


Figure 107: 6 weeks to 6 months – Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)

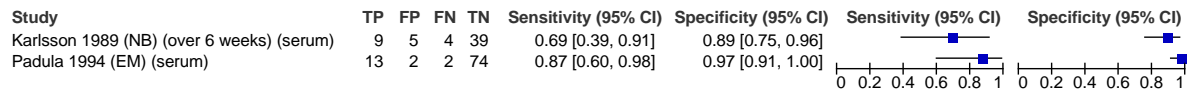


Figure 108: 6 weeks to 6 months – Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)

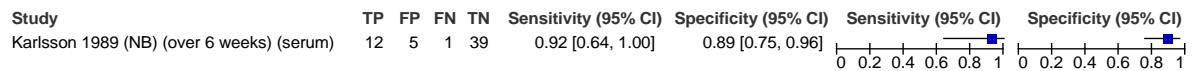


Figure 109: 6 weeks to 6 months – Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

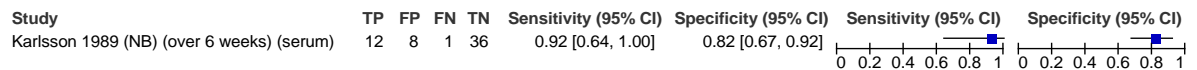


Figure 110: 6 weeks to 6 months: Culture

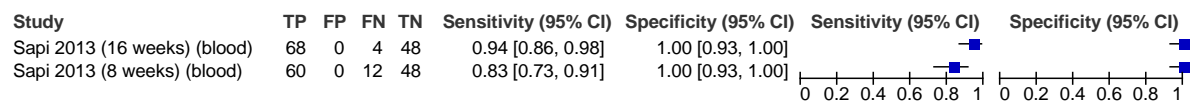


Figure 111: More than 6 months – ELISA (IgM)

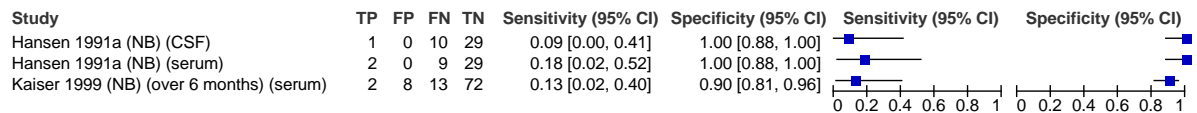
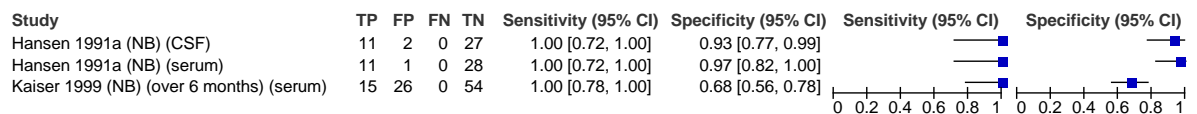


Figure 112: More than 6 months – ELISA (IgG)



1 E.2 Initial tests: Coupled sensitivity and specificity forest plots for children

3 E.2.1 Evidence from cross-sectional studies

4 E.2.1.1 Erythema migrans (EM)

Figure 113: ELISA (IgM)

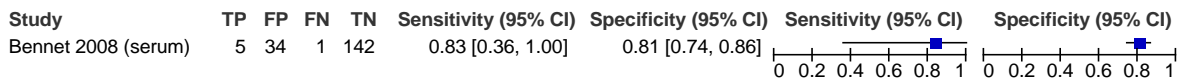
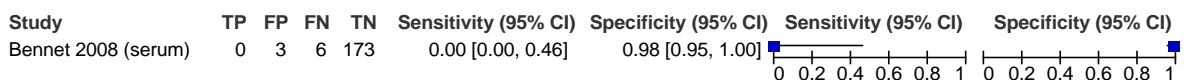


Figure 114: ELISA (IgG)



5 E.2.1.2 Neuroborreliosis

Figure 115: ELISA (IgM)

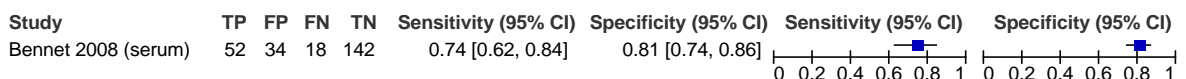


Figure 116: ELISA (IgG)

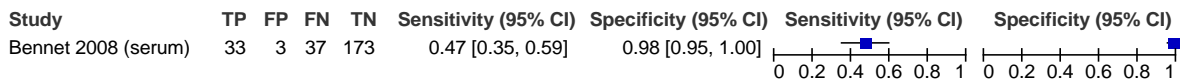


Figure 117: PCR – Lyme meningitis only

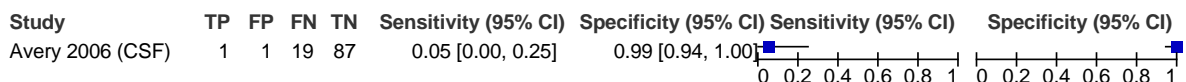


Figure 118: ELISA (IgM) – facial palsy only

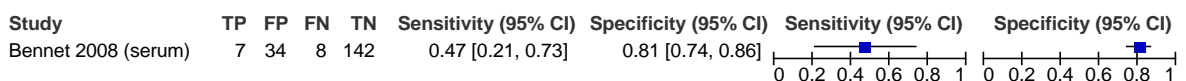


Figure 119: ELISA (IgG) – facial palsy only

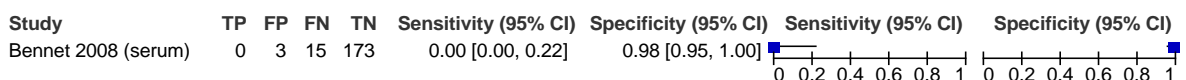
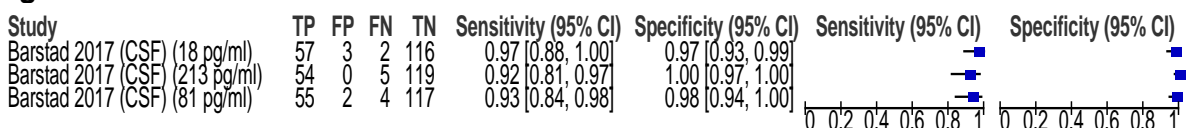


Figure 120: CXCL13



1 E.2.1.3 Unspecified Lyme disease

Figure 121: ELISA C6

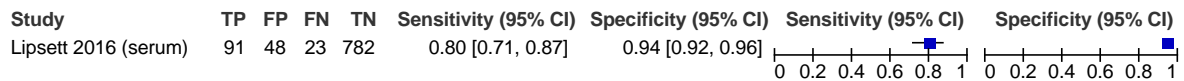
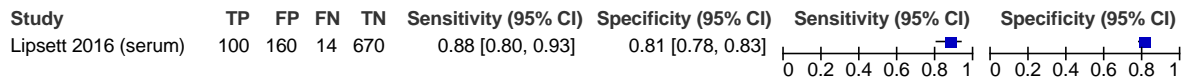


Figure 122: ELISA WCS



2 E.2.2 Evidence from case-control studies

3 E.2.2.1 Erythema migrans (EM)

Figure 123: ELISA (IgM)

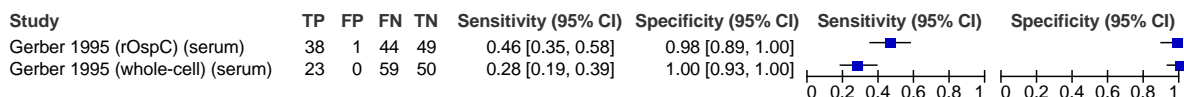
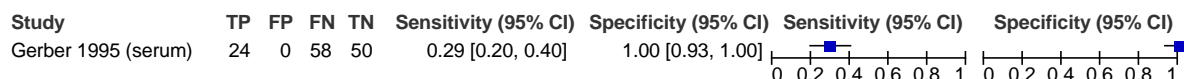


Figure 124: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)



4 E.2.2.2 Neuroborreliosis

Figure 125: ELISA (IgM)

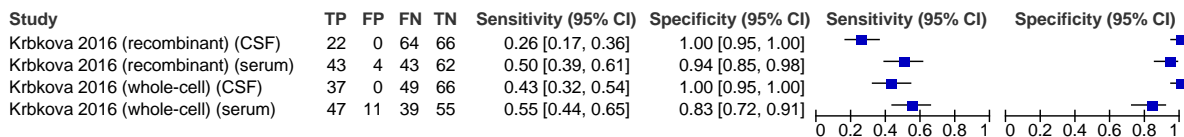


Figure 126: ELISA (IgG)

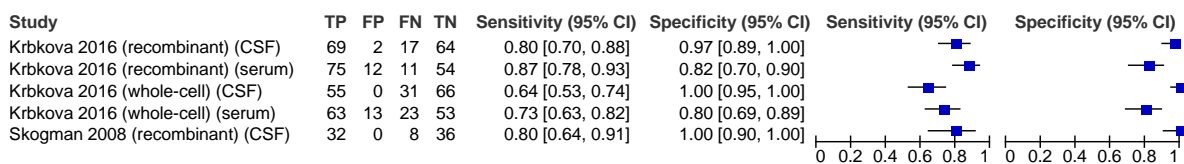


Figure 127: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgM)

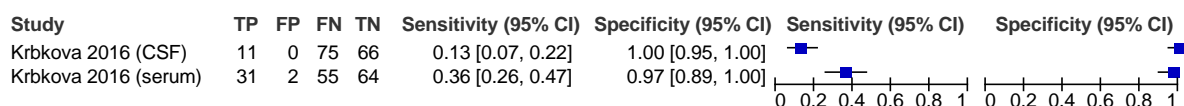


Figure 128: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)

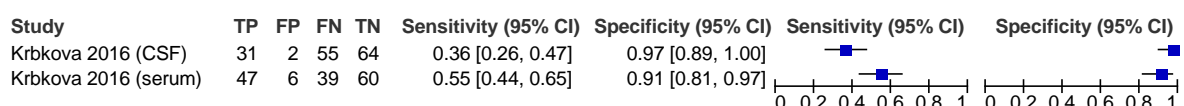
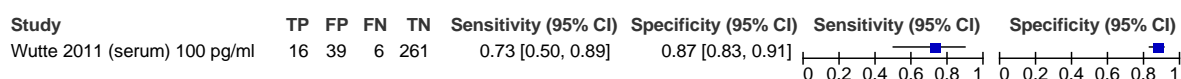
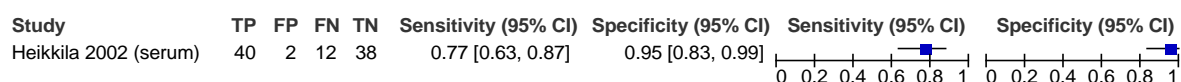


Figure 129: CXCL13



1 E.2.2.3 Lyme arthritis

Figure 130: ELISA (IgG)

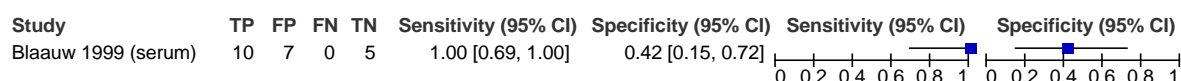


2 E.3 Confirmatory tests: Coupled sensitivity and specificity forest plots for adults

3 E.3.1 Evidence from cross-sectional studies

4 E.3.1.1 Unspecified Lyme Disease

Figure 131: Immunoblot (IgG)



5 E.3.2 Evidence from case-control studies

6 E.3.2.1 Erythema migrans (EM)

Figure 132: ELISA (IgG)

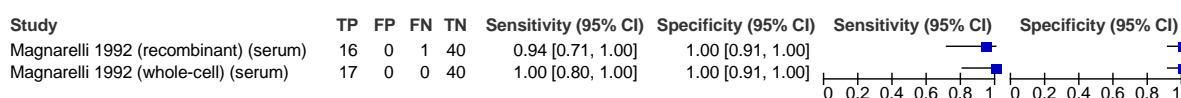


Figure 133: Immunoblot (IgM)

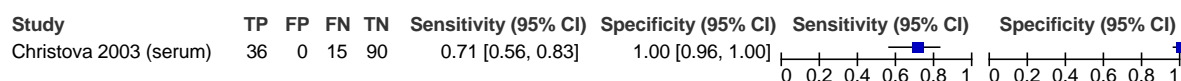


Figure 134: Immunoblot (IgG)

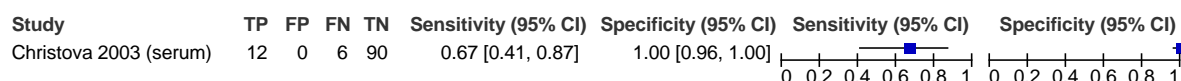


Figure 135: Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

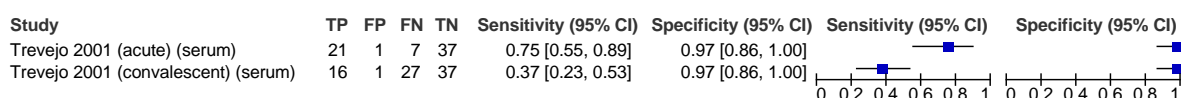


Figure 136: IFA (IgM)

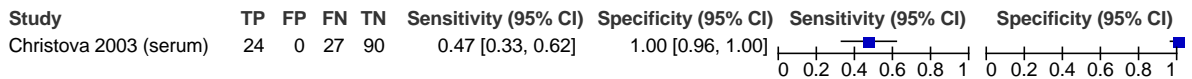
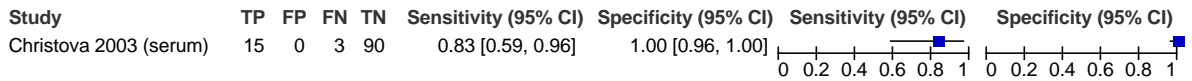
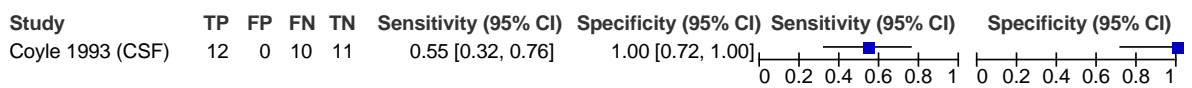


Figure 137: IFA (IgG)



1 **E.3.2.2 Neuroborreliosis**

Figure 138: Western blot/Immunoblot (IgG)



2 **E.4 Confirmatory tests: Coupled sensitivity and specificity**
 3 **forest plots for children**

4 **E.4.1 Evidence from cross-sectional studies**

5 None.

6 **E.4.2 Evidence from case-control studies**

7 None.

8 **E.5 Combination of tests: Coupled sensitivity and specificity**
 9 **forest plots for adults**

10 **E.5.1 Evidence from cross-sectional studies**

11 None.

1 E.5.2 Evidence from case-control studies

2 E.5.2.1 Erythema migrans (EM)

Figure 139: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

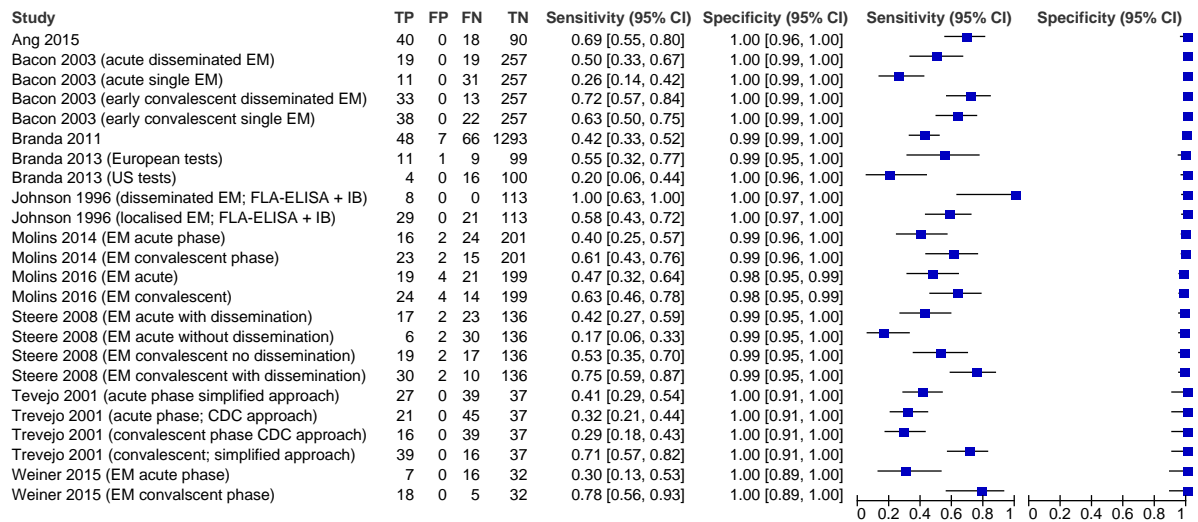


Figure 140: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

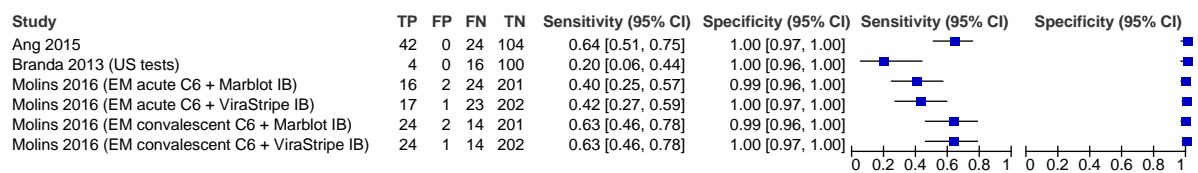


Figure 141: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6

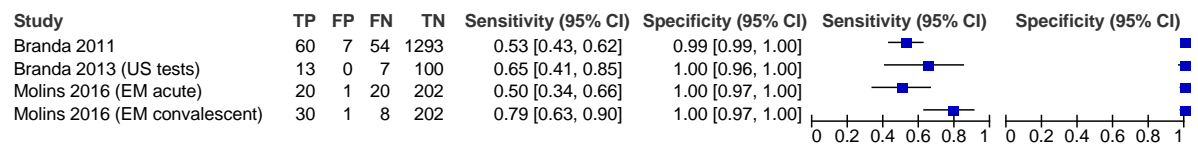


Figure 142: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (VIsE)

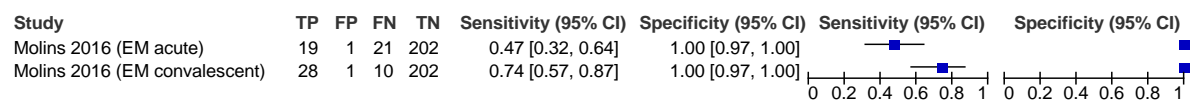


Figure 143: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)

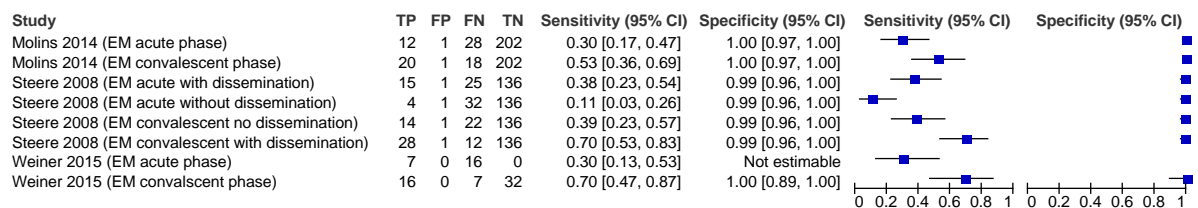
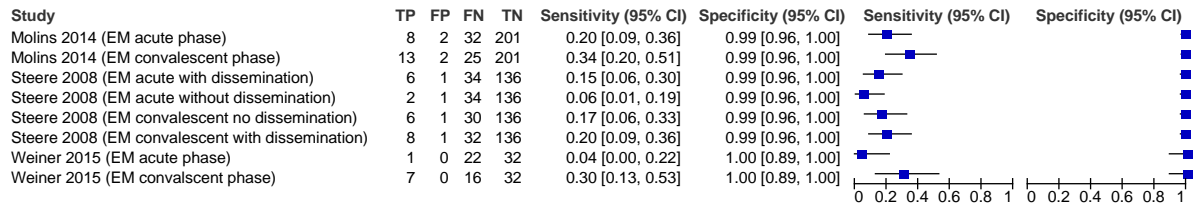


Figure 144: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)



1 E.5.2.2 Neuroborreliosis

Figure 145: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

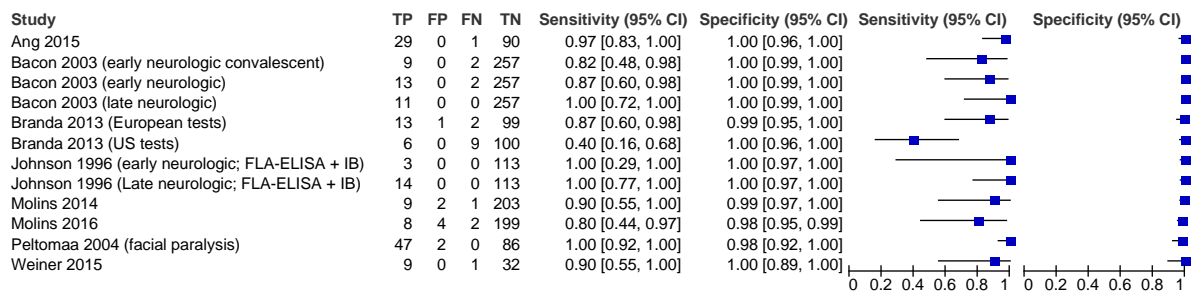


Figure 146: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

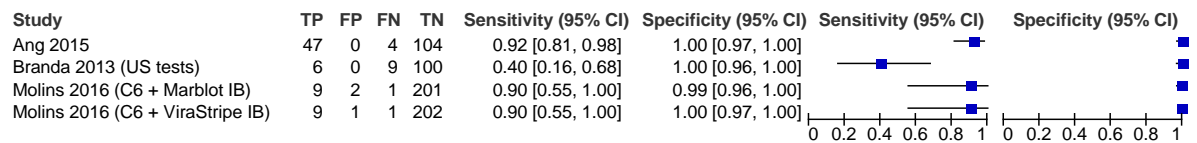


Figure 147: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6

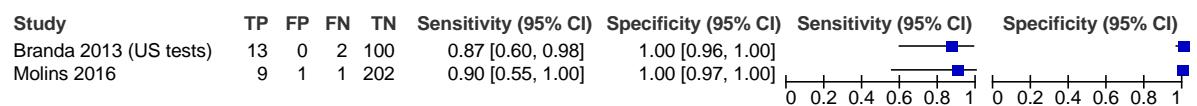


Figure 148: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)

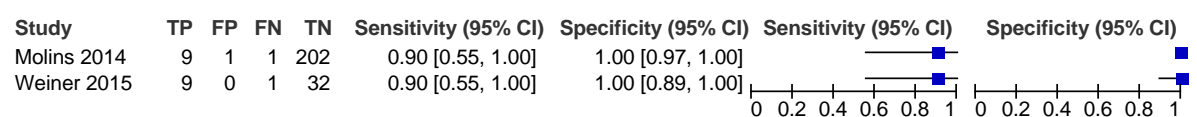


Figure 149: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)

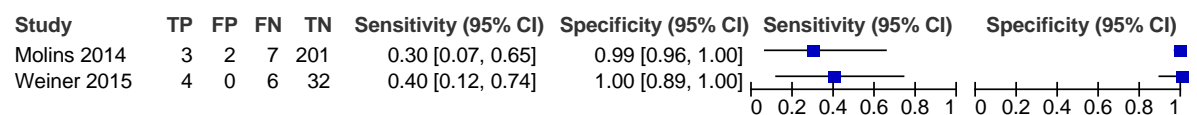
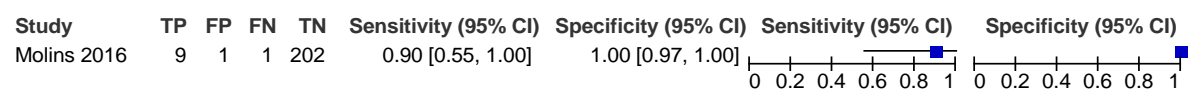


Figure 150: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (VIsE)



1 E.5.2.3 Lyme arthritis

Figure 151: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

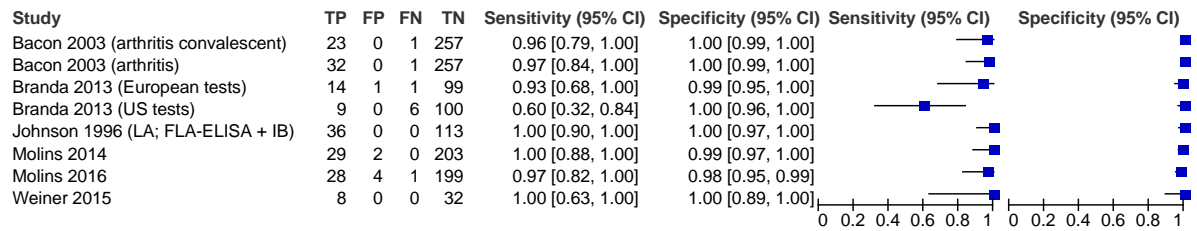


Figure 152: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

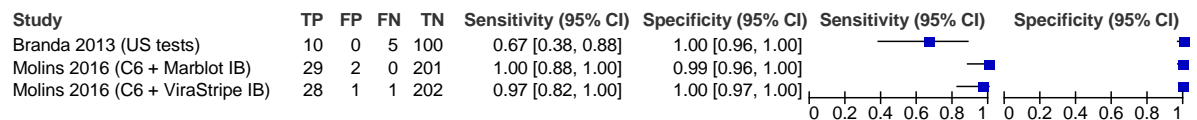


Figure 153: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6

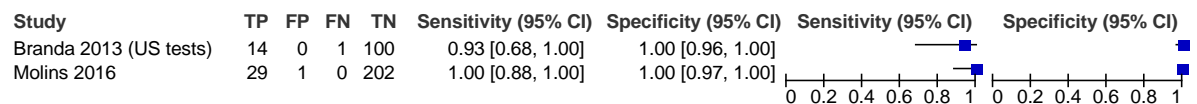


Figure 154: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)

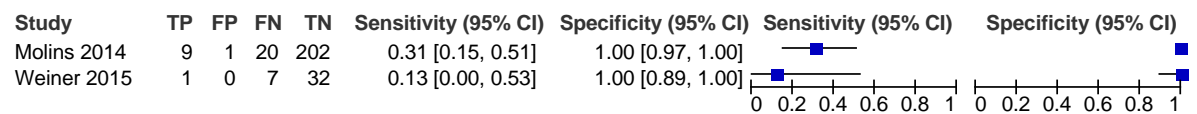


Figure 155: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)

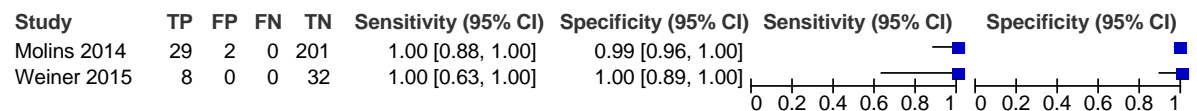
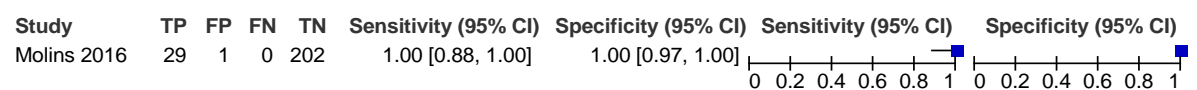


Figure 156: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (VIsE)



2 E.5.2.4 Lyme carditis

Figure 157: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

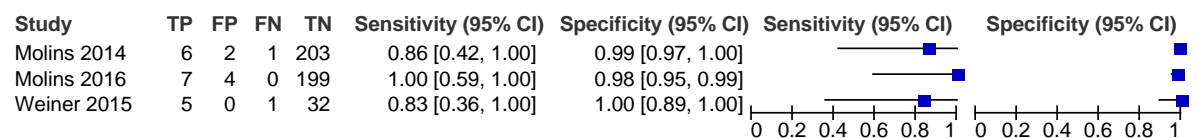


Figure 158: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)

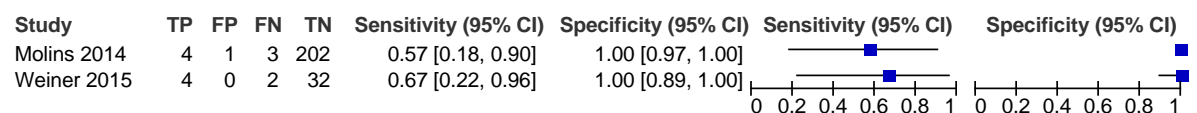


Figure 159: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)

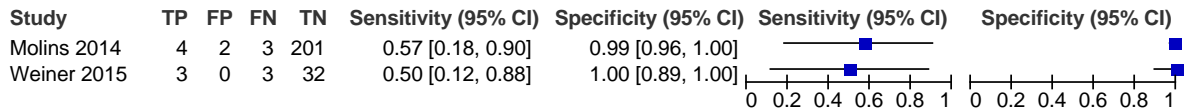


Figure 160: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6

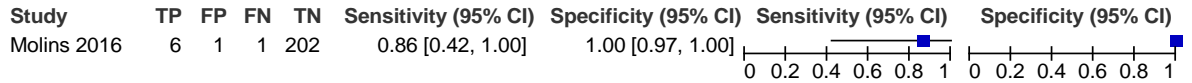


Figure 161: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (VIsE)

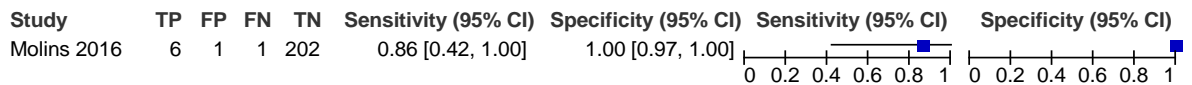
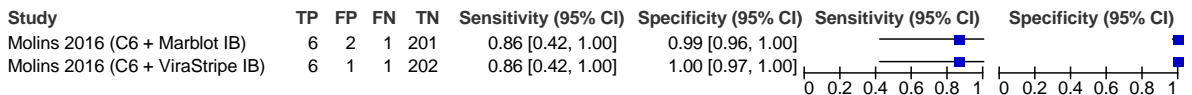


Figure 162: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)



1 E.5.2.5 Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans (ACA)

Figure 163: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

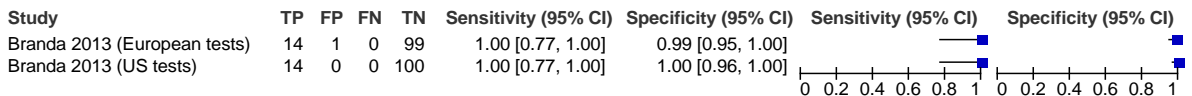


Figure 164: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6

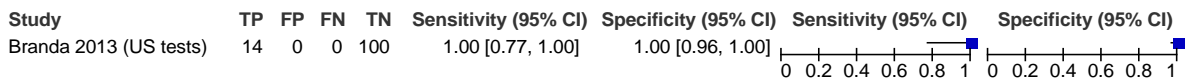
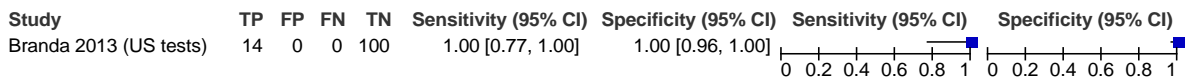


Figure 165: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)



2 E.5.2.6 Unspecified Lyme Disease

Figure 166: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

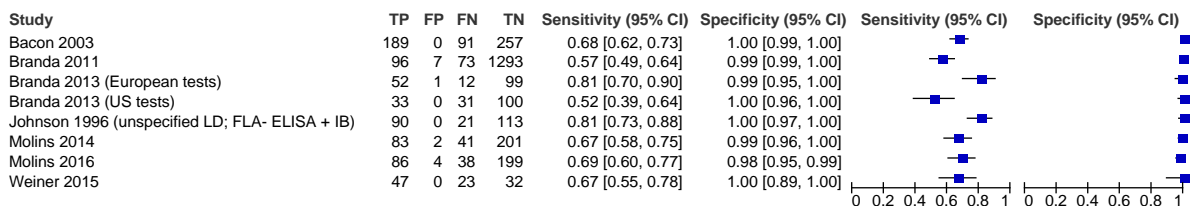


Figure 167: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM)

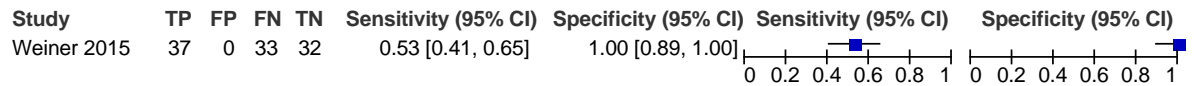


Figure 168: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG)

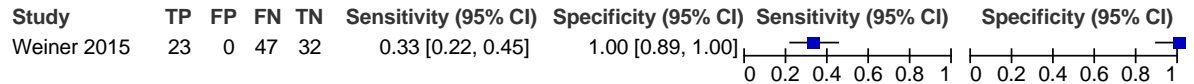


Figure 169: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

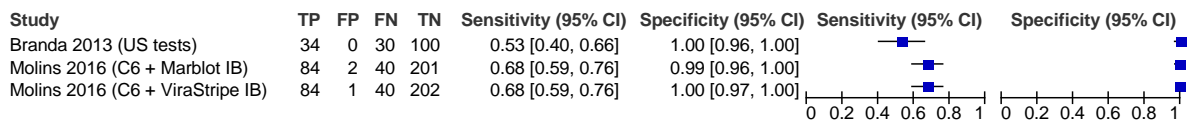


Figure 170: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6

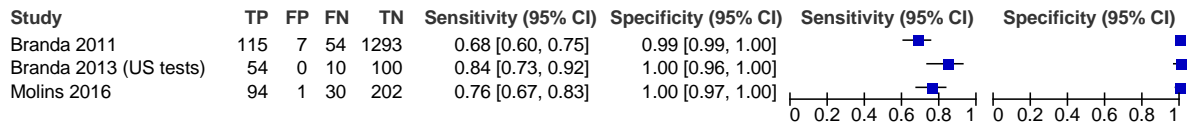


Figure 171: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (VIsE)

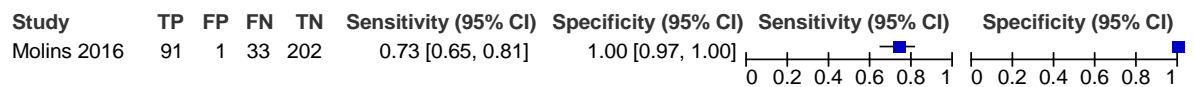


Figure 172: ELISA (IgM) and Immunoblot (IgM) – early Lyme Disease

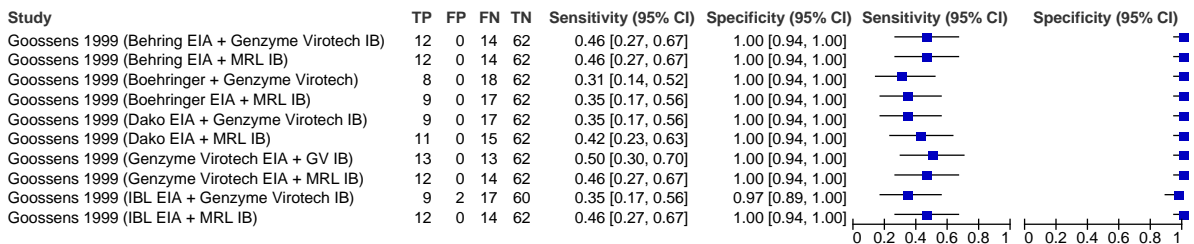


Figure 173: ELISA (IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG) – early Lyme Disease

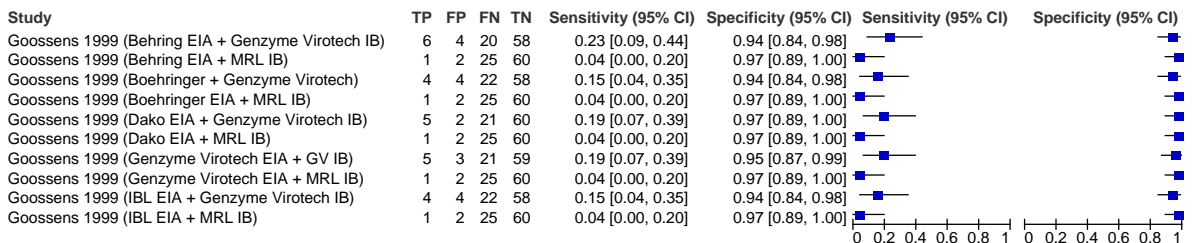


Figure 174: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM) – early Lyme Disease

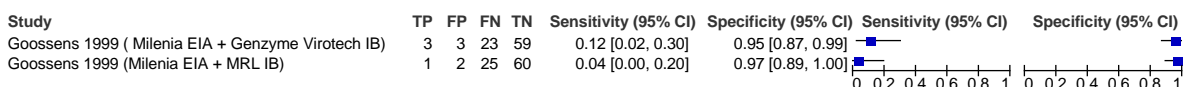


Figure 175: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG) – early Lyme Disease

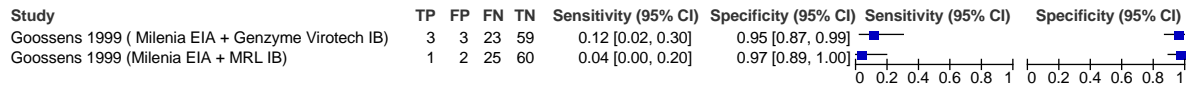


Figure 176: ELISA (IgM) and Immunoblot (IgM) – late Lyme Disease

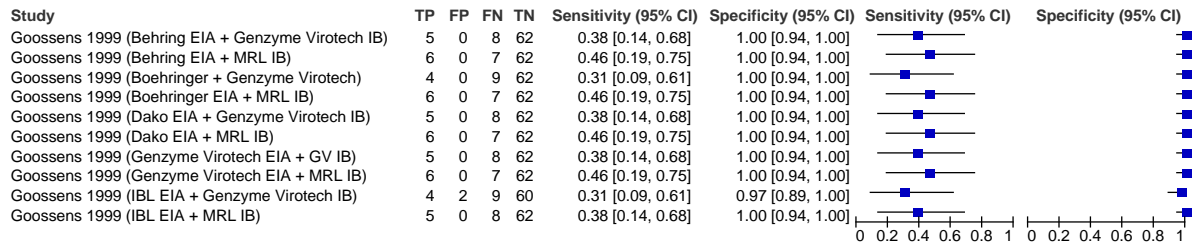


Figure 177: ELISA (IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG) – late Lyme Disease

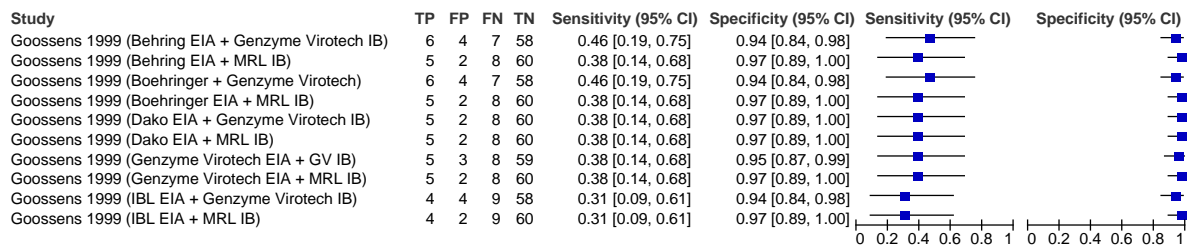


Figure 178: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM) – late Lyme Disease

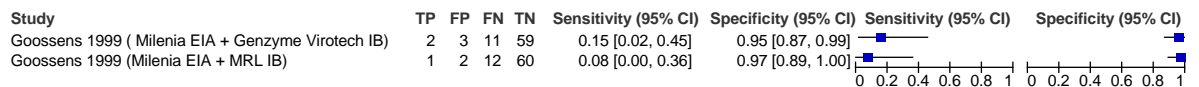


Figure 179: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG) – late Lyme Disease

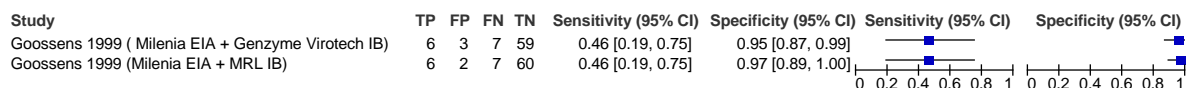


Figure 180: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG) – acute neuritis or carditis

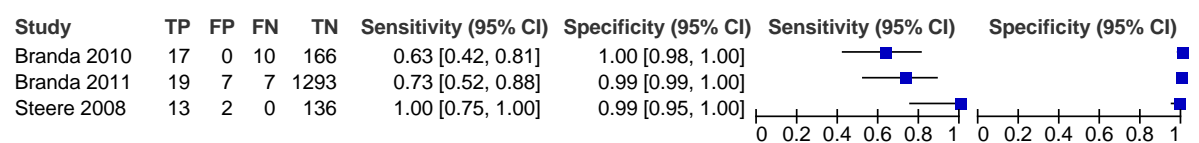


Figure 181: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG with VlsE band) – acute neuritis or carditis

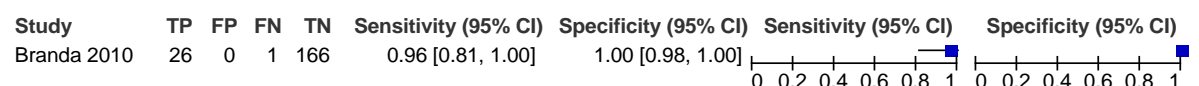


Figure 182: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and VlsE band – acute neuritis or carditis

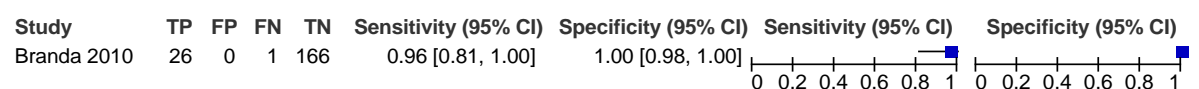


Figure 183: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6 – acute neuritis or carditis

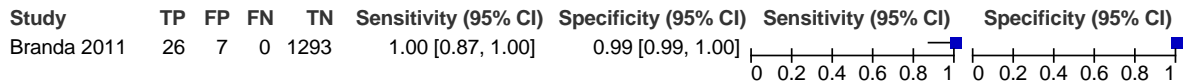


Figure 184: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM) – acute neuritis or carditis

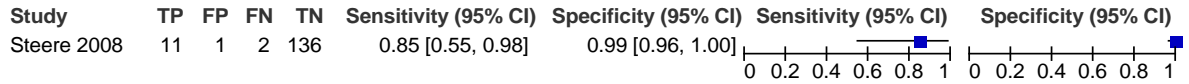


Figure 185: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG) – acute neuritis or carditis

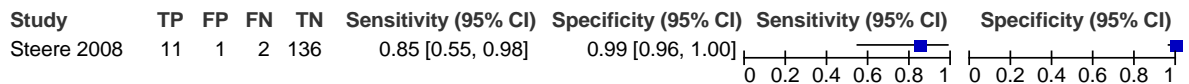


Figure 186: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG) – arthritis or late neuritis

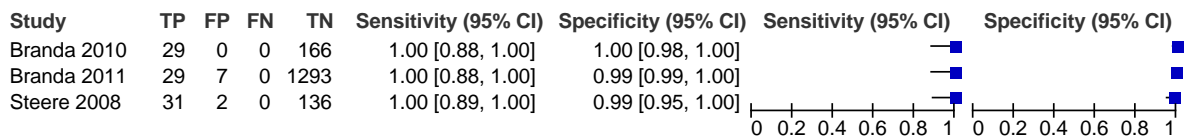


Figure 187: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG with VlsE band) – arthritis or late neuritis

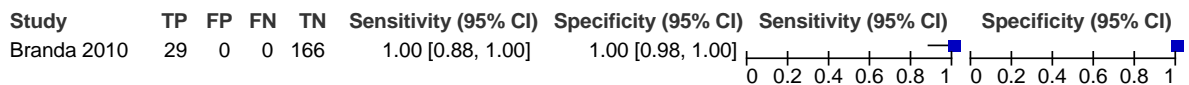


Figure 188: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and VlsE band – arthritis or late neuritis

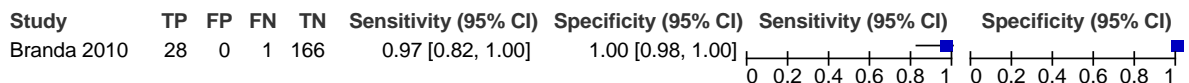


Figure 189: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6 – arthritis or late neuritis

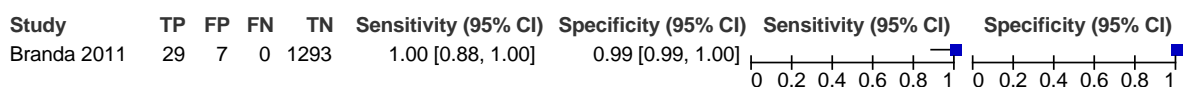


Figure 190: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgM) – arthritis or late neuritis

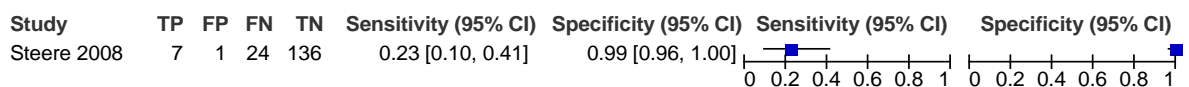
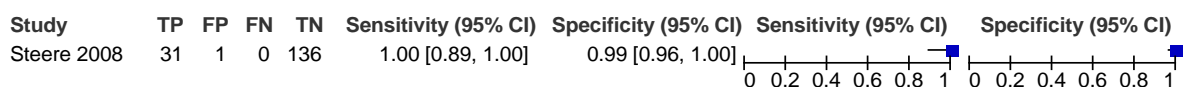


Figure 191: ELISA (IgM/IgG) and Immunoblot (IgG) – arthritis or late neuritis



1 E.5.2.7 Post-treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome (PTLDS)

Figure 192: ELISA and Immunoblot (IgG)

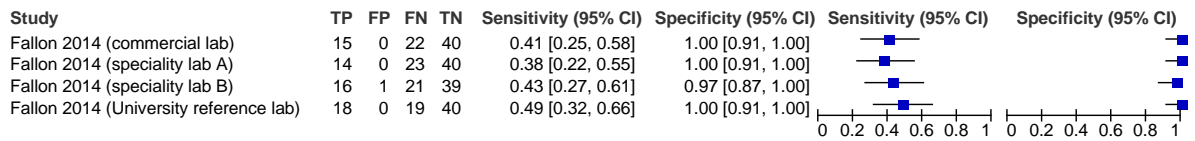


Figure 193: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgG)

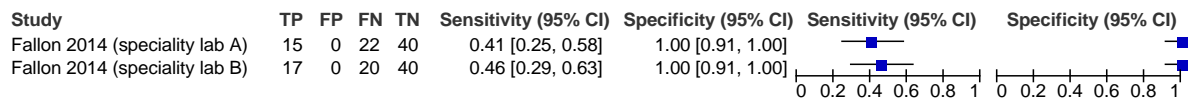
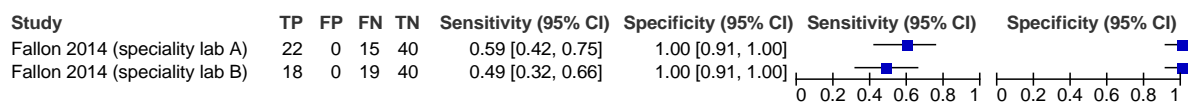


Figure 194: ELISA and ELISA C6



2 E.6 Combination of tests: Coupled sensitivity and specificity forest plots for children

3 E.6.1 Evidence from cross-sectional studies

4 E.6.1.1 Unspecified Lyme Disease

Figure 195: ELISA C6 and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)

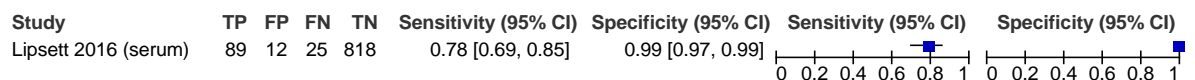


Figure 196: ELISA WCS and ELISA C6

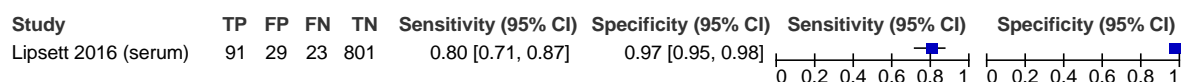
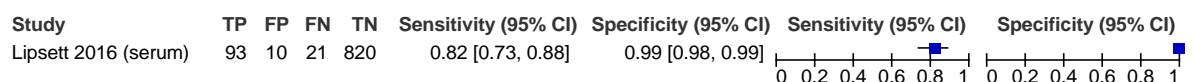


Figure 197: ELISA WCS and Immunoblot (IgM/IgG)



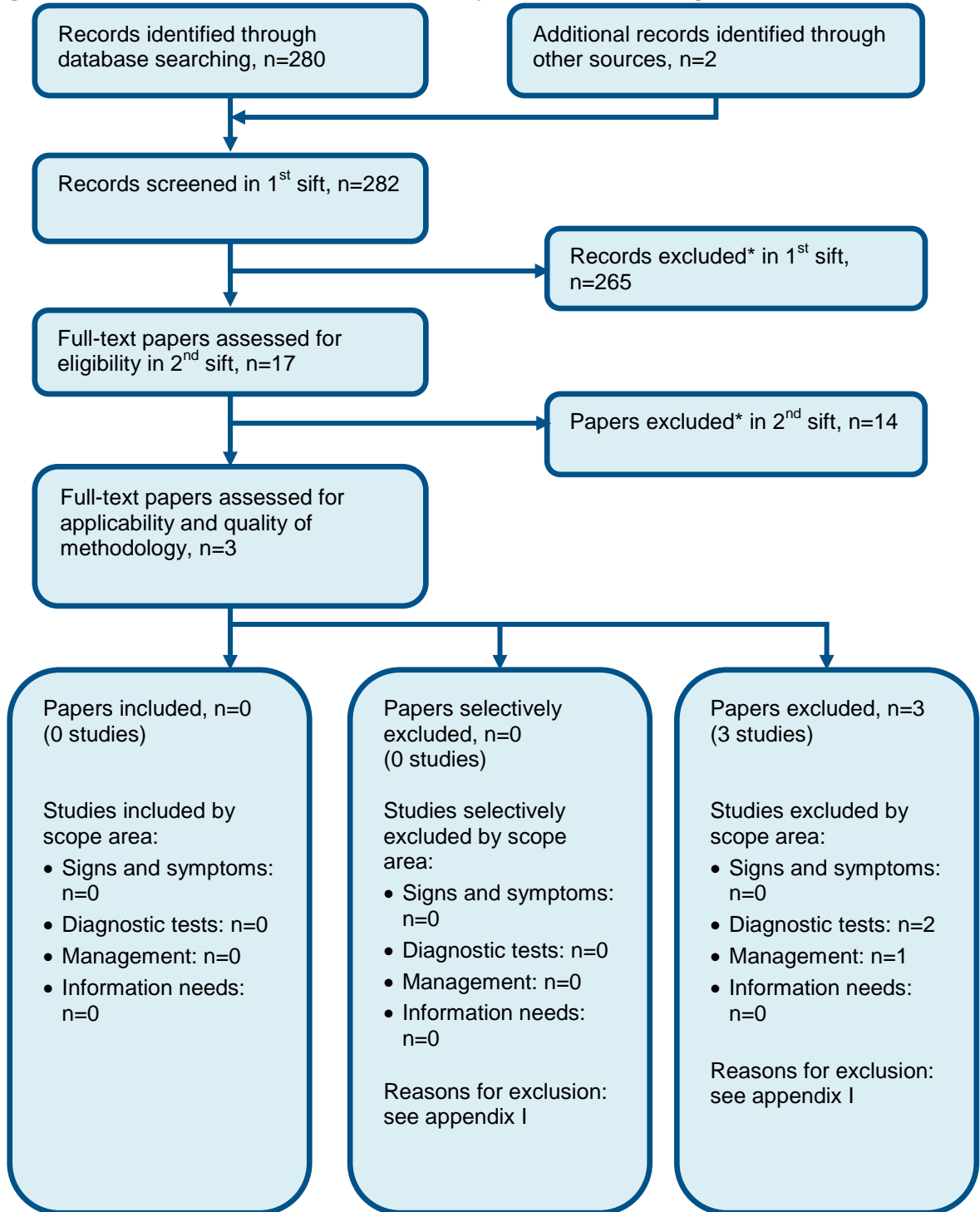
6 E.6.2 Evidence from case-control studies

7 None.

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Appendix F: Health economic evidence selection

Figure 198: Flow chart of economic study selection for the guideline



* Non-relevant population, intervention, comparison, design or setting; non-English language

3
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Appendix G: Health economic evidence tables

None.

Appendix H: Health economic exploratory analysis

H.1 Exploratory analysis for diagnostic testing for Lyme disease

H.1.1 Introduction

Currently in the NHS, a 2-tier testing strategy is used to diagnose Lyme disease. The first 'initial' test, an ELISA, is done to 'rule out' Lyme disease. Those who test positive or have an equivocal result in this initial test are then given a second 'confirmatory' test, an immunoblot. This confirmatory test aims to 'rule in' people with Lyme disease.

The initial test (ELISA) is the less costly of the 2 tests and can be run, validated and interpreted on automated platforms without too much specialist input in most reasonably sized laboratories. Therefore, currently in the NHS, this is undertaken either in a local laboratory or at the centralised laboratory: the Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory (RIPL). The confirmatory test (immunoblot) is more expensive and requires specific expertise for interpretation of results. This test is centralised to RIPL to ensure they are doing enough tests to maintain competence and experience (which is difficult with Lyme disease, as it is relatively rare) and ensure a quality, validated result. As a result, the immunoblot is not considered as a single test but only as a confirmatory test after an initial test.

Clinical and cost-effectiveness evidence was sought for diagnostic tests for Lyme disease. In the planning stages, this area was prioritised for original economic analysis during guideline development due to the potential for a change in practice if evidence was found for additional tests for Lyme disease. No evidence was found to support the use of additional tests, and overall, the committee considered the clinical evidence supportive of continuing with the current 2-tier testing strategy. No economic evaluations were identified.

Testing costs will be higher with a 2-tier testing strategy than with a single initial test (ELISA). However, this may be offset by reduced costs associated with reduced misdiagnosis. The committee highlighted that the main aim of 2-tier testing was to minimise false positive diagnoses. Reducing false positives would be associated with a reduction in antibiotic treatment costs. In addition, where people receive an incorrect diagnosis they may continue to be symptomatic and have further healthcare contacts until a correct diagnosis is made and appropriate treatment is given. Reducing false positives would also be expected to increase QALYs. Conducting an additional test, however, may increase the number of false negatives. A false negative would be associated with increased costs to the NHS, as the person may continue to be symptomatic and have further healthcare contacts until a correct diagnosis is made. By not receiving prompt treatment, these people may develop long-term complications of undiagnosed Lyme disease, which would have a negative impact on QALYs and may be costly to manage.

In the absence of any published economic evidence regarding 2-tier testing compared to a single initial test, an analysis was undertaken to help support committee decision-making.

H.1.2 Approach to analysis

An exploratory analysis was conducted to estimate the additional cost of 2-tier testing (initial ELISA including C6 IgM and IgG followed by confirmatory immunoblot if ELISA is positive) over initial testing only (ELISA including C6 IgM and IgG) in people with suspected Lyme disease and to evaluate the potential for the cost of a misdiagnosis (either false positive or

1 false negative) for 2-tier testing to be cost-neutral. The committee considered it likely that the
2 costs of 2-tier testing would be offset by cost savings due to reduced false positives;
3 therefore, this analysis aimed to explore this quantitatively.

4 This analysis was undertaken from an NHS and personal social services perspective, using
5 published costs from 2016/2017. This analysis was conducted in accordance with the NICE
6 reference case; although, this analysis was restricted to costs only and so QALYs were not
7 used. Furthermore, a probabilistic sensitivity analysis was not deemed useful for this
8 exploratory analysis. Uncertainty was considered through multiple scenario sensitivity
9 analyses.

10 A full cost–utility analysis was considered to be inappropriate for this question, as there is too
11 much uncertainty around model inputs and too many tenuous assumptions would be
12 required. The results would therefore likely be unreliable. The clinical evidence identified for
13 the diagnostic test accuracy was very heterogeneous and assessed as very low quality
14 primarily due to study design (majority case-control studies and some cross-sectional
15 studies) and an imperfect reference standard or different reference standards used across
16 studies. As a result, the evidence was not meta-analysed. The committee was able to see
17 trends in the evidence but was unable to select any 1 study as a ‘best estimate’. Many other
18 inputs that would be required, such as true prevalence of Lyme disease and utility values for
19 different presentations of Lyme disease, were also unknown.

20 This analysis assumes that only those that test positive in the ELISA receive an immunoblot.

21 The accuracy data does not allow us to estimate the number of equivocal results that would
22 occur following an ELISA; therefore, it is not possible to incorporate those in the analysis. It is
23 assumed that this would be a small proportion and so is unlikely to affect the results
24 substantially.

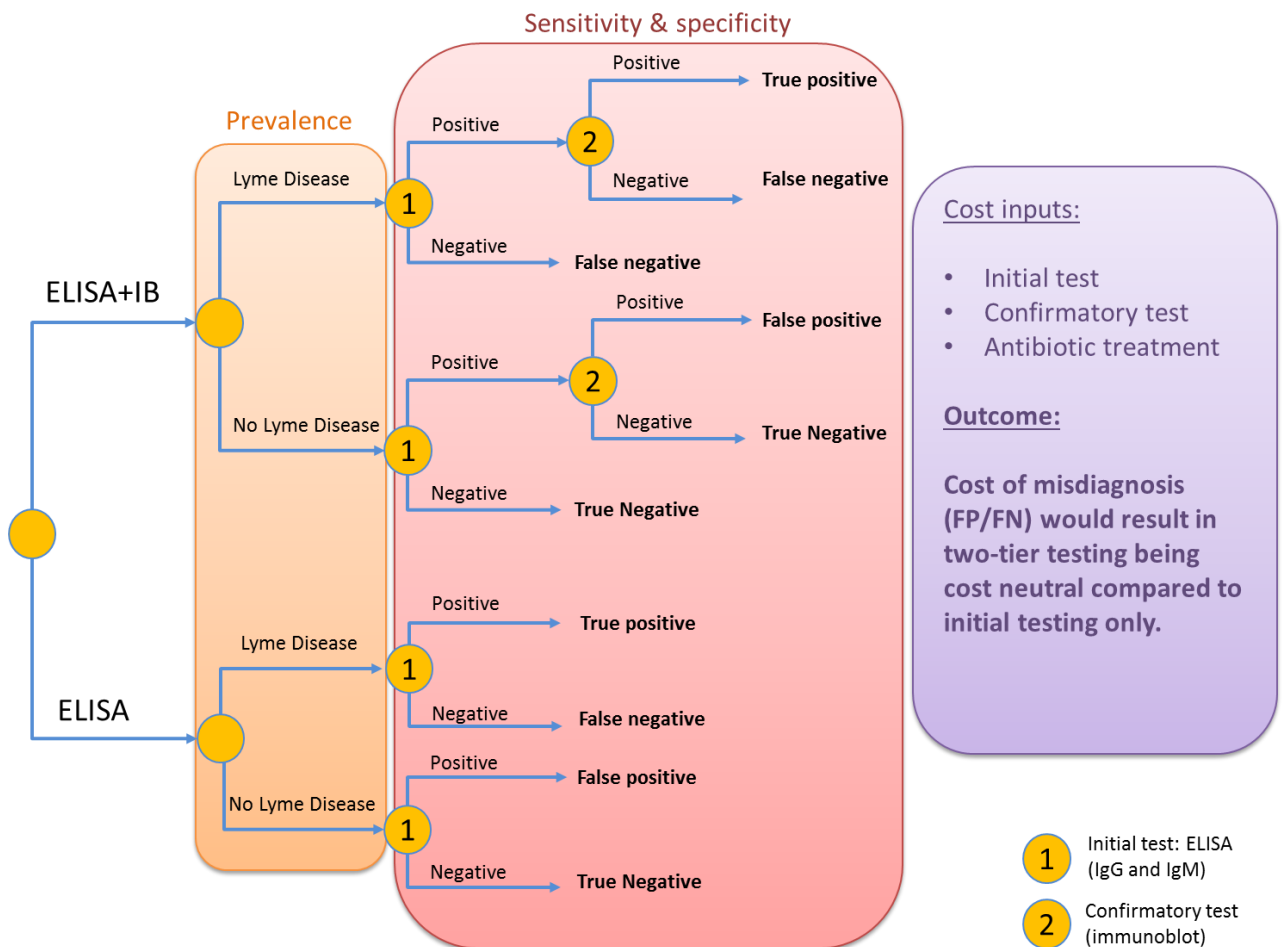
25 The decision tree is depicted in Figure 199. This analysis includes the following data inputs:

- 26 • prevalence of Lyme disease in those being tested
- 27 • sensitivity and specificity of the initial test and the confirmatory test
- 28 • cost of each test
- 29 • cost of treating Lyme disease with antibiotics.

30 The outcome of this analysis is the unit cost of misdiagnosis (either false negative or false
31 positive) that would result in 2-tier testing being cost neutral compared to initial testing only. It
32 is acknowledged that, in reality, the cost of misdiagnosis for false negatives and false
33 positives may in fact be different. As noted in the introduction, false positives would be
34 associated with potentially unnecessary antibiotic treatment costs. In addition, where people
35 receive an incorrect diagnosis they may continue to be symptomatic and have further
36 healthcare contacts until a correct diagnosis is made and appropriate treatment is given.
37 With false negative there may be increased costs to the NHS, as the person may continue to
38 be symptomatic and have further healthcare contacts until a correct diagnosis is made. By
39 not receiving prompt treatment, these people may develop long-term complications of
40 undiagnosed Lyme disease, which may be costly to manage.

41 A key limitation of this analysis is that only costs of misdiagnosis, diagnosis and treatment
42 are accounted for, and no health effects are included. It is highlighted that even if costs
43 would not be completely offset by a reduction in costs associated with misdiagnosis, 2-tier
44 testing could still be cost-effective if the benefits to people with suspected Lyme disease can
45 justify any additional cost.

1 **Figure 199: Decision tree**



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5 **H.1.3 Data inputs**

6 **Population**

7 Lyme disease can present with a number of different symptoms depending on the
8 progression of the disease. These include early-localised symptoms such as erythema
9 migrans rash and disseminated symptoms such as arthritis, carditis and neuroborreliosis.
10 The diagnostic accuracy of the tests varies depending on the presenting symptoms. For this
11 exploratory analysis, sensitivity and specificity data were selected for the following different
12 presentations: Lyme carditis, Lyme neuroborreliosis and Lyme arthritis.

13 **Prevalence**

14 RIPL reports approximately 1,000 serologically confirmed cases from approximately 15,000
15 tested samples per year for England and Wales.³⁸⁶ Based on these estimates, the
16 prevalence of Lyme disease amongst those tested is 7%. This estimate does not account for
17 those having an ELISA locally and testing negative; therefore, this could be an overestimate.
18 The true prevalence of Lyme disease may vary depending on the presenting symptoms;
19 however, no prevalence estimates were identified for different presenting symptoms. Due to
20 the uncertainty in this estimate, a sensitivity analysis was conducted using a prevalence of
21 1% and 15%.

Sensitivity and specificity

As no meta-analysis was conducted, a number of different studies were used to explore a range of sensitivities and specificities and their impact on the cost of misdiagnosis. As explained above, accuracy data was selected for different presenting symptoms. For Lyme neuroborreliosis, 3 different sets of data were selected, as there was some variation in the accuracy data identified for this presentation. This was to explore if these different sensitivities and specificities had a significant effect on the outcome of the analysis. More recent studies thought to reflect more accurately the currently available ELISA IgG and IgM C6 tests were selected. A few of the outliers in the data identified in the review were from older studies (for example, Karlsson 1989²⁰⁴), studies where the tests were done on cerebrospinal fluid samples rather than serum samples (for example, Coyle 1993⁶²) or studies with very few participants (for example, Cinco 2006⁵⁴). As a result, these were not considered to be appropriate for inclusion in the analysis.

For Lyme arthritis and Lyme carditis, only 1 set of sensitivity and specificity outcomes were selected for each presentation. It was not deemed necessary to look at more, as there was less variation in the accuracy estimates. More recent studies with large study populations were chosen.

Only data on the accuracy of the initial test and the combination 2-tier tests was available, not for the confirmatory tests alone. For the 2-tier testing comparator, in order to determine the proportion of people who tested positive in the initial test and who therefore were eligible for the confirmatory test, it was necessary to incorporate the accuracy of both tests separately. The sensitivity and specificity of the confirmatory test was therefore back-calculated using the accuracy of the combined 2-tier testing using the formula below:

$$\text{Sensitivity confirmatory test} = \frac{\text{True positive from 2 – tier testing}}{\text{Total number of people with Lyme disease}}$$

$$\text{Specificity confirmatory test} = \frac{\text{True negatives from 2 – tier testing}}{\text{Total number of people without Lyme disease}}$$

The accuracy inputs used for each scenario are summarised in Table 31 below.

Table 31: Sensitivity and specificity data inputs

Scenario Lyme type	Initial test		Confirmatory test (h)		Two-tier test	
	Sensitivity	Specificity	Sensitivity	Specificity	Sensitivity	Specificity
1 Lyme neuroborreliosis	92% (a)	72% (a)	98%	99%	90% (b)	100% (b)
2. Lyme neuroborreliosis	90% (c)	93% (c)	100%	92%	90% (d)	99% (d)
3. Lyme neuroborreliosis	92% (a)	72% (a)	87%	93%	80% (e)	98% (e)
4. Lyme arthritis	100% (c)	96% (c)	100%	87%	100% (d)	99% (d)
5. Lyme carditis	86% (f)	98% (f)	100%	74%	86% (g)	99% (g)

(a) Henningsson 2014 ELISA IgG and IgM¹⁷⁵

(b) Molins 2016 C6 and Virastripe immunoblot³⁰⁷

(c) Molins 2014 ELISA IgG and IgM³⁰⁸

(d) Molins 2014 ELISA IgG and IgM and immunoblot IgG and IgM³⁰⁸

(e) Molins 2016 ELISA IgG and IgM and immunoblot IgG and IgM³⁰⁷

- 1 (f) Molins 2016 ELISA C6³⁰⁷
2 (g) Molins 2016 ELISA C6 and Marblot³⁰⁷
3 (h) Calculated from 2-tier test and initial test data

4 **Costs**

5 The costs of the test were taken from the published costs from RIPL (April 2016-March
6 2017).³⁸⁵ The ELISA can be done in local NHS laboratories, but published costs were
7 unavailable. The cost of antibiotic treatment for Lyme neuroborreliosis and Lyme carditis is
8 based on 200mg doxycycline daily for 21 days, as per the recommendations made in this
9 guideline. For Lyme arthritis, the cost is based on 200mg doxycycline daily for 28 days.
10 Amoxicillin and azithromycin are alternative antibiotic treatments recommended in this
11 guideline. The unit costs of these are very similar to doxycycline and so are not expected to
12 impact the results of this exploratory analysis. Therefore, it was not deemed necessary to
13 conduct a sensitivity analysis around the cost of the antibiotics. A sensitivity analysis was
14 conducted for Lyme neuroborreliosis where it is assumed that all people suspected with
15 Lyme neuroborreliosis receive intravenous antibiotics because of their presenting symptoms
16 (for example, meningitis). As a result, in this scenario, the cost of treatment cancels itself out
17 as everyone incurs the treatment cost and so the cost is not included in the analysis.

18 All cost inputs are summarised in Table 32.

19 **Table 32: Cost inputs**

Item	Unit cost	Source
C6 antigen-based ELISA (combined IgG and IgM)	£25.45	RIPL laboratory manual April 2016-March 2017 ³⁸⁵
Immunoblot (separate IgG and IgM line blots)	£70.11	RIPL laboratory manual April 2016-March 2017 ³⁸⁵
Doxycycline 200mg daily, 21 days	£4.57	January 2017 NHS Electronic Drug Tariff ³²⁸
Doxycycline 200mg daily, 28 days	£6.10	January 2017 NHS Electronic Drug Tariff ³²⁸

20 **Additional scenarios**

21 In addition to the 5 scenarios outlined in Table 31, a number of sensitivity analyses were
22 conducted to explore uncertainty in the assumptions and inputs. These are summarised
23 below (scenarios 6-8).

24 As noted above, there is some uncertainty regarding the true prevalence of Lyme disease in
25 England; thus, 2 sensitivity analyses were completed, 1 with a lower prevalence of 1%
26 (scenario 6) and 1 with a higher prevalence of 15% (scenario 7), in both cases using the test
27 accuracy data and treatment costs of scenario 1.

28 The cost of Lyme neuroborreliosis antibiotic treatment could be higher if intravenous rather
29 than oral antibiotics were given. As highlighted above, if the population suspected of Lyme
30 disease had symptoms such as meningitis, they would all receive intravenous antibiotics
31 irrespective of the Lyme diagnosis. In this scenario, then the cost of treatment would be the
32 same for all people entering the analysis and would therefore cancel out. A sensitivity
33 analysis (scenario 8) was conducted using the accuracy data for scenario 1 but with no cost
34 of treatment included to reflect all people receiving intravenous antibiotics.

35 **H.1.4 Results**

36 The results in terms of the unit cost of misdiagnosis to the NHS for 2-tier testing to be cost
37 neutral compared to initial testing only of all 8 scenarios are reported in Table 33. The results
38 indicate that the unit cost of a misdiagnosis would need to be between £69 and £381

1 (depending on data used) for the 2-tier testing to be cost neutral compared to initial testing
2 only.

3 **Table 33: Threshold analysis results: unit cost of misdiagnosis resulting in 2-tier**
4 **testing being cost neutral compared to initial testing only**

Scenario	Unit cost of misdiagnosis resulting in 2-tier testing being cost neutral
1 (Lyme neuroborreliosis)	£83
2 (Lyme neuroborreliosis)	£142
3 (Lyme neuroborreliosis)	£91
4 (Lyme arthritis)	£218
5 (Lyme carditis)	£381
6 (Lyme neuroborreliosis – low prevalence)	£69
7 (Lyme neuroborreliosis – high prevalence)	£109
8 (Lyme neuroborreliosis – intravenous antibiotics)	£88

5 A breakdown of the mean cost of antibiotics and testing per person is presented in Table 34.
6 This demonstrates that the cost of testing is greater for 2-tier testing on average per person
7 but the cost of treatment is lower compared to initial testing only. Note the cost of treatment
8 is not included for Scenario 8 as explained above under ‘Additional Scenarios’.

9 **Table 34: Breakdown of mean cost of testing and antibiotics per person**

Test	Mean cost of testing per person	Mean cost of antibiotics per person
Scenario 1 (Lyme neuroborreliosis)		
Initial test only	£25.45	£1.47
Initial and confirmatory test	£48.07	£0.29
Scenario 2 (Lyme neuroborreliosis)		
Initial test only	£25.45	£0.57
Initial and confirmatory test	£34.24	£0.30
Scenario 3 (Lyme neuroborreliosis)		
Initial test only	£25.45	£1.47
Initial and confirmatory test	£48.07	£0.33
Scenario 4 (Lyme arthritis)		
Initial test only	£25.45	£0.63
Initial and confirmatory test	£32.97	£0.44
Scenario 5 (Lyme carditis)		
Initial test only	£25.45	£0.35
Initial and confirmatory test	£30.97	£0.28
Scenario 6 (Lyme neuroborreliosis – low prevalence)		
Initial test only	£25.45	£1.31
Initial and confirmatory test	£45.53	£0.05
Scenario 7 (Lyme neuroborreliosis – high prevalence)		
Initial test only	£25.45	£1.72
Initial and confirmatory test	£51.81	£0.63
Scenario 8 (Lyme neuroborreliosis – intravenous antibiotics)		
Initial test only	£25.45	£0.00
Initial and confirmatory test	£48.07	£0.00

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A breakdown of the number of true positives, true negatives, false positives and false negatives for scenarios 1–5 are presented in Table 35. These results demonstrate that for 2-tier testing, there is a small increase in false negatives in some scenarios but a large decrease in false positives compared to the initial testing only. Overall, there are fewer misdiagnoses with 2-tier testing compared to initial testing only.

Table 35: Breakdown of correct and incorrect diagnoses (scenarios 1–5)

Test	TP	TN	FP	FN	Incorrect diagnoses (FP and FN)
Scenario 1 (Lyme neuroborreliosis)					
Initial test only	61	672	261	5	267
Initial and confirmatory test	60	931	3	7	9
Scenario 2 (Lyme neuroborreliosis)					
Initial test only	60	868	65	7	72
Initial and confirmatory test	60	928	5	7	12
Scenario 3 (Lyme neuroborreliosis)					
Initial test only	67	896	261	5	267
Initial and confirmatory test	53	915	18	13	32
Scenario 4 (Lyme arthritis)					
Initial test only	70	893	37	0	37
Initial and confirmatory test	67	928	5	0	5
Scenario 5 (Lyme carditis)					
Initial test only	57	915	19	9	28
Initial and confirmatory test	57	928	5	9	15

8 Abbreviations: FN: false negative; FP: false positive; TN: true negative; TP: true positive

9 H.1.5 Discussion

10 The results of this exploratory analysis indicate that the unit cost of a misdiagnosis would
11 need to be between £69 and £381 (depending on data inputs used) for the 2-tier testing to be
12 cost neutral compared to initial testing only. To aid their consideration of what the unit cost of
13 misdiagnosis might be to the NHS, relevant unit costs were presented to the committee
14 (Table 36).

15 **Table 36: Relevant unit costs**

Item	Unit cost	Source
GP appointment	£36	PSSRU 2016 ⁶⁹
Consultant-led outpatient attendance infectious disease, adult	£240	NHS reference costs 2015-2016 ⁸²
Consultant-led outpatient attendance infectious disease, paediatric	£317	
Consultant-led outpatient attendance rheumatology, adult	£152	
Consultant-led outpatient attendance	£211	

Item	Unit cost	Source
rheumatology, paediatric		
Consultant-led outpatient attendance cardiology, adult	£136	
Consultant-led outpatient attendance cardiology, paediatric	£178	

1 Overall, the committee considered that a misdiagnosis was very likely to cost at least £381,
2 as these people would have a number of healthcare interactions whether the misdiagnosis
3 was a false positive or a false negative. Therefore, the committee agreed that 2-tier testing is
4 very likely to be at least cost neutral compared to initial testing only and that it may even be
5 cost saving.

6 A limitation of this analysis is that it did not account for health benefits. If health benefits had
7 been incorporated, then 2-tier testing would likely be cost effective compared to initial testing,
8 as the total number of correct diagnoses is greater in all scenarios for 2-tier testing compared
9 to initial testing only.

10 Overall, this analysis is considered to be partially applicable with potential serious limitations.

11 In conclusion, the committee agreed that this analysis supported a recommendation that
12 people suspected of Lyme disease should have an initial ELISA and if they test positive, they
13 should have a confirmatory immunoblot.
14

Appendix I: Excluded studies

I.1 Excluded clinical studies

Table 37: Studies excluded from the clinical reviews on initial tests, confirmatory tests and combination of tests for Lyme disease

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Aberer 2007 ¹	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Aberer 2012 ²	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Aguero-Rosenfeld 2003 ³	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Ai 1994 ⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Albisetti 1997 ⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
al-Sharif 2011 ⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ananjeva 1995 ⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ang 2011 ⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Arnez 2002 ¹⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Arteaga 1998 ¹¹	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Artsob 1993 ¹²	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Artsob 1991 ¹³	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Aucott 2016 ¹⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect outcome
Bazovska 2001 ¹⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Bednarova 2006 ²⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Bergstrom 1991 ²²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Berti 2016 ²³	Conference abstract
Bil-Lula 2015 ²⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Binnicker 2008 ²⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Bizzaro 2001 ²⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Blaauw 1993 ²⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Blanc 2007 ²⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Borde 2012 ³⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Bounas-Pyrros 2016 ³¹	Conference abstract
Bremell 2013 ³⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Brettschneider 1998 ³⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Bretz 2001 ³⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Brissette 2010 ³⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Brunner 1998 ⁴⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Bucak 2016 ⁴¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Buffrini 2000 ⁴²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Burbelo 2010 ⁴³	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Busson 2012 ⁴⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Callister 1996 ⁴⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Cerar 2008 ⁵⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Cerar 2008 ⁴⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Cermakova 2005 ⁵¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Chan 1996 ⁵²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Coleman 2011 ⁵⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Commins 2011 ⁵⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Cook 2016 ⁵⁷	Systematic review (references checked)
Cook 2017 ⁵⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Cooke 1994 ⁵⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Cottle 2012 ⁶⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Coulter 2005 ⁶¹	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Coyle 1990 ⁶⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Coyle 1994 ⁶³	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Coyle 1995 ⁶⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect population

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Craft 1984 ⁶⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Cretella 1995 ⁶⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Cruz 1991 ⁶⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Cutler 1990 ⁷⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Cutler 1994 ⁷¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Cutler 1989 ⁷²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Cyr 2005 ⁷³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Dattwyler 1999 ⁷⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Dattwyler 1988 ⁷⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Davidson 1996 ⁷⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Davidson 1999 ⁷⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Deanehan 2014 ⁷⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Dehnert 2012 ⁸⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Demaerschack 1995 ⁸¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Dessau 2010 ⁸⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Dessau 2015 ⁸⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Dessau 2013 ⁸³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Dessau 2015 ⁸⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Dh te 2000 ⁸⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Dickeson 2016 ⁸⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Dressler 1991 ⁹¹	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Du 2007 ⁹²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Dumler 2001 ⁹³	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Dunaj 2013 ⁹⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Durovska 2010 ⁹⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Eichenfield 1986 ⁹⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Eisendle 2007 ⁹⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Ekerfelt 2004 ⁹⁸	No reference standard
Embers 2016 ⁹⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Embers 2007 ¹⁰⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Engstrom 1995 ¹⁰¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Eshoo 2012 ¹⁰²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Evans 2010 ¹⁰⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Evans 2005 ¹⁰³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Exner 2003 ¹⁰⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Fahrer 1998 ¹⁰⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Fahrer 1991 ¹⁰⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Fawcett 1998 ¹¹¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Fawcett 1992 ¹⁰⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Fawcett 1993 ¹¹⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Feder 1992 ¹¹²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Feder 1995 ¹¹³	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Felz 1999 ¹¹⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Fidelus-Gort 1993 ¹¹⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Figueroa 1996 ¹¹⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Fikrig 2004 ¹¹⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Fikrig 1992 ¹¹⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect study type
Fister 1989 ¹¹⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Fix 1998 ¹²⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect study type
Fleming 2004 ¹²¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Flisiak 1999 ¹²²	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Fujita 1991 ¹²⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect study type
Furuta 2001 ¹²⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Garro 2009 ¹²⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ghayad 2012 ¹³⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Glatz 2006 ¹³¹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Gomes-Solecki 2007 ¹³⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Gomes-Solecki 2000 ¹³³	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Gomes-Solecki 2002 ¹³⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Goodlad 2002 ¹³⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect study type
Gooskens 2006 ¹³⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Goossens 2001 ¹⁴¹	Not available
Gordillo 1999 ¹⁴²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Gospodinova 2010 ¹⁴³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Grabe 2008 ¹⁴⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Gross 1998 ¹⁴⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Grusell 2002 ¹⁴⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Grygorczuk 2007 ¹⁴⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Guellec 2016 ¹⁴⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Gutierrez 1995 ¹⁵¹	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Gutierrez 2000 ¹⁵⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Guy 1991 ¹⁵³	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Guy 1989 ¹⁵²	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Halpern 2014 ¹⁵⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Hamann-Brand 1994 ¹⁵⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Hammers-Berggren 1994 ¹⁵⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Hammers-Berggren 1994 ¹⁵⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Hammouda 1995 ¹⁵⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Hanner 1993 ¹⁶⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Hansen 1992 ¹⁶⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Hansen 1990 ¹⁶³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Hauser 1998 ¹⁶⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Hauser 1998 ¹⁶⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Hauser 1999 ¹⁷⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Hauser 1997 ¹⁷¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Heikkila 2002 ¹⁷³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Heikkila 2002 ¹⁷⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Hilton 1996 ¹⁷⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Hjetland 2014 ¹⁷⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Hofmann 1996 ¹⁸⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Hofstad 1987 ¹⁸¹	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Huppertz 1993 ¹⁸³	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Jansson 2005 ¹⁸⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Jarefors 2006 ¹⁸⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Jiang 2005 ¹⁸⁷	Not in English
Jin 2013 ¹⁸⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Jobe 2008 ¹⁸⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Johnston 1992 ¹⁹¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Jones 2009 ¹⁹²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Jonsson 1990 ¹⁹³	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Kaiser 2000 ¹⁹⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Kaiser 1994 ¹⁹⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Kaiser 1995 ¹⁹⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Kaiser 1993 ¹⁹⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Kalish 2001 ²⁰¹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Karlsson 1994 ²⁰³	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Keller 1992 ²⁰⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Kepa 2015 ²⁰⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Kolmel 1992 ²⁰⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Kondrusik 2007 ²⁰⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Kowarik 2012 ²¹⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Kuiper 1994 ²¹²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lahdenne 2003 ²¹³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lahdenne 2006 ²¹⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Lakos 2012 ²¹⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Lakos 2010 ²¹⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lakos 2005 ²¹⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lakos 1990 ²¹⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lane 1990 ²²⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lange 1991 ²²²	Not in English
Lantos 2015 ²²³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lantos 2016 ²²⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lebech 2002 ²²⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Ledue 1996 ²³⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lee 2014 ²³²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lee 2010 ²³³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Leeflang 2016 ²³⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Leinweber 2004 ²³⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Lencakova 2007 ²³⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Li 2011 ²³⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Liang 1999 ²⁴⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lin 1991 ²⁴²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lipsett 2015 ²⁴⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Liu 2016 ²⁴⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Liu 2016 ²⁴⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Liveris 2012 ²⁴⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Liveris 2012 ²⁵⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Liveris 2011 ²⁴⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Liveris 2002 ²⁵¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Livermore 2016 ²⁵²	Conference abstract
Ljostad 2007 ²⁵⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ljostad 2005 ²⁵⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Londono 2014 ²⁵⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lotric-Furlan 1999 ²⁵⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Luft 1992 ²⁵⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Luft 1993 ²⁵⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Luger 1990 ²⁶⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Lukac 2006 ²⁶¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ma 1992 ²⁶²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mackensen 2011 ²⁶³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mackworth-Young 1990 ²⁶⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Maes 2017 ²⁶⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Magnarelli 1991 ²⁶⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Magnarelli 1995 ²⁷¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Magnarelli 1996 ²⁷³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Magnarelli 2000 ²⁷⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Magnarelli 1984 ²⁷⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Magnarelli 1990 ²⁷⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Magnarelli 1989 ²⁶⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Magnarelli 1987 ²⁷⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Magnarelli 2002 ²⁷⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Magnarelli 1987 ²⁶⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mansy 1996 ²⁷⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Marangoni 2006 ²⁸⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Marangoni 2005 ²⁸²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Markowicz 2015 ²⁸³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Marques 2005 ²⁸⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Marques 2009 ²⁸⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Marques 2000 ²⁸⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mathiesen 1998 ²⁸⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mavin 2014 ²⁹²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Mavin 2011 ²⁹⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mavin 2009 ²⁸⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mavin 2007 ²⁹¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mayne 2014 ²⁹³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Melby 1990 ²⁹⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Melchers 1991 ²⁹⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Melski 1993 ²⁹⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Mikkila 1997 ²⁹⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Milewski 2011 ²⁹⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Millner 1989 ³⁰⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Millner 1991 ³⁰¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mogilyansky 2004 ³⁰³	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Molins 2016 ³⁰⁶	Duplicate
Moniuszko 2012 ³¹¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Moniuszko 2014 ³⁰⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Moniuszko 2015 ³¹⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Moravcova 2005 ³⁷⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Moravcova 2001 ³¹²	Not in English
Mouritsen 1996 ³¹⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mueller 2006 ³¹⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Mullegger 2007 ³¹⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Murray 1986 ³¹⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Nachamkin 1996 ³¹⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Nadal 1989 ³¹⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Nadelman 1996 ³²⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Nadelman 1990 ³²¹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Nagel 2008 ³²²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Naktin 2017 ³²³	Excluded due to an incorrect study type
Nayak 2016 ³²⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Neubert 1986 ³²⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Neumann 1989 ³²⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Nichol 1998 ³²⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Nigrovic 2013 ³³⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Nilsson 1996 ³³¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Norman 1996 ³³⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Nowakowski 2009 ³³⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Nowakowski 2001 ³³⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ogden 2017 ³³⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ogrinc 2013 ³⁴¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ogrinc 2002 ³⁴⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Oksi 1999 ³⁴²	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Oksi 2001 ³⁴³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Olsson 1991 ³⁴⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Oschmann 1997 ³⁴⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Pachner 1993 ³⁴⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Pachner 1992 ³⁴⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Palacios 1999 ³⁵⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Palecek 2010 ³⁵¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Paluchowska 1996 ³⁵²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Panelius 2002 ³⁵³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Panelius 2003 ³⁵⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Panelius 2007 ³⁵⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Pappas 1985 ³⁵⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Park 2011 ³⁵⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Patriquin 2016 ³⁶⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Paul 1987 ³⁶¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Pavia 2000 ³⁶²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Pavlickova 2004 ³⁶³	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Peltomaa 1998 ³⁶⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Pennell 1987 ³⁶⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Peter 1997 ³⁶⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Petersen 2008 ³⁶⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Pflugger 1989 ³⁶⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Philipp 2006 ³⁷⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Picha 2014 ³⁷⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Picha 2008 ³⁷²	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Picha 2016 ³⁷³	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Picken 1997 ³⁷⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Pierer 1999 ³⁷⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Pietikainen 2016 ³⁷⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Pietruczuk 2006 ³⁷⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Pleyer 2001 ³⁸⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Plorer 1993 ³⁸¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Puri 2014 ³⁸⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Qiu 2000 ³⁸⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Ranki 1994 ³⁸⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rasiah 1994 ³⁹⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rauer 2001 ³⁹¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rebman 2015 ³⁹⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rehse-Kupper 1987 ³⁹⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Reiber 2013 ³⁹⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Riesbeck 2007 ³⁹⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rijpkema 1997 ³⁹⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rijpkema 1994 ³⁹⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Robertson 2000 ⁴⁰⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rodiger 2013 ⁴⁰¹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Rose 1994 ⁴⁰²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rose 1991 ⁴⁰³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rosslhuber 2012 ⁴⁰⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Rossmann 2009 ⁴⁰⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Rudenko 2005 ⁴⁰⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rupprecht 2005 ⁴⁰⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Rutkowski 1997 ⁴¹⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ruzic-Sabljić 2017 ⁴¹²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ryffel 1998 ⁴¹³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Salazar 2005 ⁴¹⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Santino 2008 ⁴¹⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schempp 1993 ⁴¹⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schenk 2015 ⁴¹⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schmidt 2011 ⁴²⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schmidt 1995 ⁴¹⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Schmitz 1993 ⁴²¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schutzer 1997 ⁴²⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schutzer 1999 ⁴²⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schutzer 1990 ⁴²⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schwaiger 2001 ⁴²⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schwartz 1993 ⁴²⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schwartz 1993 ⁴³⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Schwarzova 2009 ⁴³²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Seppala 1994 ⁴³⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Seriburi 2012 ⁴³⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Shrestha 1985 ⁴³⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Sieper 1993 ⁴³⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Sikand 1999 ⁴³⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Sillanpaa 2014 ⁴⁴⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Sillanpaa 2013 ⁴⁴¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Simpson 1990 ⁴⁴²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Sjostedt 1994 ⁴⁴⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Skarpaas 2007 ⁴⁴⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Skogman 2010 ⁴⁴⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Smit 2015 ⁴⁴⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Smouha 1997 ⁴⁵⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Soloski 2014 ⁴⁵¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Sood 1993 ⁴⁵²	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Sood 1995 ⁴⁵³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Sroka-Oleksiak 2016 ⁴⁵⁴	Not in English
Steere 1993 ⁴⁵⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Steere 1983 ⁴⁵⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Steere 1977 ⁴⁵⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Stefancikova 2001 ⁴⁶⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Steinberg 1996 ⁴⁶¹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Stiernstedt 1985 ⁴⁶⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Stiernstedt 1986 ⁴⁶⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Strle 2014 ⁴⁶⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Strle 2017 ⁴⁶⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Stubs 2009 ⁴⁶⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Sundin 2012 ⁴⁷⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Tammemagi 1995 ⁴⁷¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Thompson 2009 ⁴⁷²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Tilton 1997 ⁴⁷³	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Tjernberg 2008 ⁴⁷⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Tokarska-Rodak 2010 ⁴⁷⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Tokarska-Rodak 2008 ⁴⁷⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Treib 1998 ⁴⁸⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Trejejo 1999 ⁴⁸²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Trevisan 1996 ⁴⁸³	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Trnovcova 2007 ⁴⁸⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Tuuminen 2011 ⁴⁸⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Tveitnes 2012 ⁴⁸⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Tylewska-Wierzbanowska 2002 ⁴⁸⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ulvestad 2001 ⁴⁸⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Valentine-Thon 2007 ⁴⁹⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
van Burgel 2011 ⁴⁹¹	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Vermeersch 2009 ⁴⁹⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Vienecke 1995 ⁴⁹⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
von Wissmann 2015 ⁴⁹⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Vrethem 2011 ⁵⁰⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Waddell 2016 ⁵⁰¹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Wang 1996 ⁵⁰³	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Wang 2000 ⁵⁰²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Wang 1993 ⁵⁰⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Weber 1986 ⁵⁰⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Weiss 1995 ⁵⁰⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Weller 1991 ⁵⁰⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Werner 2001 ⁵⁰⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Widhe 2005 ⁵¹¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Wienecke 1993 ⁵¹²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Wienecke 1995 ⁵¹³	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Wieneke 2000 ⁵¹⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Wilhelmsson 2016 ⁵¹⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Wilkinson 1984 ⁵¹⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Wilske 1984 ⁵²⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Wilske 1994 ⁵¹⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Wise 1991 ⁵²¹	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Wojciechowska-Koszko 2011 ⁵²²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Wokke 1988 ⁵²³	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Wormser 2013 ⁵²⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Wormser 2000 ⁵²⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Wormser 2013 ⁵²⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Wormser 2014 ⁵³⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Wormser 2000 ⁵²⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Wormser 1998 ⁵²⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Wormser 2008 ⁵²⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Wutte 2014 ⁵³¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ye 2016 ⁵³⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Ye 2017 ⁵³³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Yu 1996 ⁵³⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect study design
Yu 1996 ⁵³⁶	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Zajkowska 2015 ⁵³⁸	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Zajkowska 2001 ⁵³⁷	Excluded due to an incorrect diagnostic test
Zajkowska 2000 ⁵³⁹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Zbinden 1994 ⁵⁴⁰	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Zhang 2015 ⁵⁴¹	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Zhang 1997 ⁵⁴²	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Zhioua 1998 ⁵⁴³	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Ziemer 2008 ⁵⁴⁴	Excluded due to an incorrect population
Zoller 1991 ⁵⁴⁵	Excluded due to an incorrect analysis
Zoller 1990 ⁵⁴⁶	Not in English
Zweitzig 2016 ⁵⁴⁷	Not available

1 I.2 Excluded health economic studies

2 **Table 38: Studies excluded from the health economic review**

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Mavin 2014 ²⁹²	This study was excluded due to a combination of limited applicability and very serious methodological limitations. QALYs were not used as the health outcome measure. The analysis is based on a study that was not included in the clinical review for the guideline due to a lack of reference standard. Furthermore, only costs of the reagents are included in the analysis. Costs of other tests, staffing and downstream costs are not reported. The source of unit costs is unclear. No analysis of uncertainty is reported.
Jansson 2005 ¹⁸⁴	This study was excluded due to a combination of limited applicability and very serious methodological limitations. Finnish resource use data and unit costs (2004) may not reflect current NHS context. QALYs were not used as the health outcome measure. The analysis is based on a study that was not included in the clinical review for the guideline due to a lack of reference standard and an unclear population. A cost saving is presented in the discussion of paper with no detail provided as to how this was calculated. Unclear what unit costs are incorporated into this analysis. The source of unit costs not reported. No analysis of uncertainty is reported.

3

Appendix J: Research recommendations

J.1 What are the best laboratory tests to diagnose initial and ongoing infection and determine reinfection in the different presentations of Lyme disease

Research question: What is the most clinically and cost effective serological antibody-based test, biomarker (such as CXCL13), lymphocyte transformation and ELISPOT for diagnosing Lyme disease in the UK at all stages, including reinfection?

Why this is important:

Determining the most clinically and cost effective diagnostic tests for Lyme disease will improve patient care and is of high priority. The clinical presentation of Lyme disease is very variable, with diagnosis of all presentations except erythema migrans relying in part on laboratory testing. Current literature suggests that a combined IgG/IgM ELISA based on the C6 peptide and immunoblot are useful but published evidence is of either low or very low quality and is not UK based. There is evidence of variation in the C6 peptide between the principal *Borrelia* genospecies in UK ticks and a combination of ELISAs may improve sensitivity. Determining the most clinically and cost effective diagnostic tests for Lyme disease will improve patient care and is of high priority.

A “test of cure” for Lyme disease does not exist and, consistent with most other infectious diseases, positive serology is likely to remain positive following successful treatment of acute infection in the majority of patients. However, we know little about the evolution of antibody titres over time in those who have been treated successfully and in those who have persisting symptoms. It is frequently stated that early antibiotic treatment of Lyme disease abrogates the immune response, so that serology remains or becomes negative. The evidence base for this is minimal and this is not a common occurrence in other infections. Understanding the natural course of Lyme disease serology and non-serological tests over time may assist in the interpretation of test results in patients who remain symptomatic and in those who are high risk for re-infection, such as those with occupational exposure

In particular, further research into the value of CXCL13 and other biomarkers including, ELISPOT testing and lymphocyte transformation tests may be helpful to support the current low quality evidence.

Criteria for selecting high-priority research recommendations:

PICO question	Population: children, young people and adults with Lyme disease Intervention(s): 2-tier testing (IgM/IgG ELISA based on the C6 antigen followed by an immunoblot) Comparison: CXCL13 (for Neuroborreliosis), ELISPOT (for Neuroborreliosis), lymphocyte transformation (for any Lyme disease presentation), immunoblot alone (for any presentation of Lyme disease) Outcome(s): core outcome set
Importance to patients or the population	None of the diagnostic tests currently available for Lyme disease are 100% accurate and therefore people with Lyme disease are missed or people without Lyme disease are falsely diagnosed with Lyme disease and receive treatment. For people with suspected Lyme disease, it is important to receive a correct diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Determining the most clinically and cost-effective test will ensure the best possible outcome for the highest number of people.
Relevance to NICE guidance	Due to a lack of an accurate reference standard, diagnostic test accuracy studies will always provide an overestimate or underestimate of the true accuracy of a test. A diagnostic randomised controlled trial will provide

	evidence on whether one test results in better outcomes compared to another test, rather than aiming to determine which test is more accurate in diagnosing Lyme disease without taking treatment options and therefore patient outcomes into account.
Relevance to the NHS	Determining the most clinically and cost effective test for Lyme disease will improve diagnostic accuracy and patient care as well as reduce the misuse of costly services.
National priorities	No
Current evidence base	The evidence on the accuracy of diagnostic tests for Lyme disease is generally of very low quality. No diagnostic RCTs were identified for this guideline.
Equality	None relevant
Study design	Diagnostic RCT Diagnostic test accuracy studies should be conducted for novel tests of limited availability.
Feasibility	Inaccurate tests can result in a missed diagnosis of Lyme disease or in people being falsely diagnosed with the disease. As a result, people might receive inappropriate treatment and repeat testing. Some people might develop long-term morbidity, which can result in high costs for the NHS and social services. The high costs of such research are therefore justified by the potentially high reduction in costs for the NHS.
Other comments	The study may attract commercial funders in the diagnostics arena including companies developing novel assays or biomarkers.
Importance	High: the research is essential to inform future updates of key recommendations in the guideline.

1 **J.2 Seroprevalence of Lyme disease specific antibodies (and**
 2 **other tick borne infections in the UK population)**

3 **Research question: What is the current seroprevalence of Lyme disease-specific**
 4 **antibodies and other tick-borne infections (such as babesiosis, ehrlichiosis,**
 5 **anaplasmosis, bartonellosis or Q fever) in people in the UK when performed using UK-**
 6 **accredited assays (ELISA based on C6 antigen and immunoblot)?**

7 **Why this is important:**

8 This information is not currently available and is of high priority. Without understanding the
 9 underlying population seroprevalence of Lyme disease-specific antibodies in the UK, it is
 10 impossible to interpret incidence data accurately or to understand fully the epidemiology of
 11 Lyme disease in the UK. The available data suggests there are areas of higher and lower
 12 prevalence in the UK but with many gaps in knowledge. The information is will help to
 13 interpret serology of individuals living in endemic areas where positive serological results
 14 may be more common and may not always indicate an acute or recent infection. This will be
 15 of benefit to patients and healthcare workers in the UK treating or affected by Lyme disease.
 16 Many people are concerned about the possible presence of co-infections transmitted by
 17 ticks: these are thought to be rare in the UK (compared to, for example, the east coast of the
 18 US) but we have no data to confirm or refute this. Better evidence may improve diagnostic
 19 and treatment decisions.

20 **Criteria for selecting high-priority research recommendations:**

PICO question	The questions that should be answered are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the seroprevalence of Lyme disease specific antibodies in the UK using UK accredited assays? • What is the prevalence of co-infections with other tick-borne infections in people who acquired Lyme disease in the UK?
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	The focus of this research will be people with a positive serology for Lyme disease, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, bartonellosis and Q fever in the UK. People do not have to have active disease to be eligible for this study.
Importance to patients or the population	Currently, tests cannot distinguish between active or past infection of Lyme disease. People who are seropositive for Lyme disease-specific antibodies and who have signs and symptoms indicative of Lyme disease will receive appropriate treatment. Understanding the epidemiology and regional prevalence of Lyme disease in the UK will help in the interpretation of serological test results. Distinguishing between active disease and seropositivity following successfully treated disease will improve patient outcomes. This research will also provide physicians with the knowledge of co-infection transmitted by ticks so that appropriate treatment, if required, can be offered.
Relevance to NICE guidance	This guideline recommends that people who are seropositive but do not have any signs and symptoms indicative of Lyme disease should not receive treatment. Research on the seroprevalence of Lyme disease specific antibodies in the UK population will provide a more robust evidence base for recommendations on the appropriate course of action for seropositive people.
Relevance to the NHS	Distinguishing between active disease and seropositivity following successfully treated disease will provide physicians with the knowledge to provide treatment only when required. People who are seropositive but do not have any signs and symptoms suggestive of active Lyme disease do not require treatment. This research can help save costs by not providing treatment when it is not indicated and by reducing adverse events following inappropriate treatment.
National priorities	No
Current evidence base	There is a general lack of evidence on the seroprevalence of Lyme disease in the UK and the epidemiology of tick-borne co-infections, such as ehrlichiosis or babesiosis. Currently, tests cannot distinguish between active disease and seropositivity following successful treatment.
Equality	None relevant
Study design	Epidemiological study in a UK population. A routine-data-based study is the most beneficial study design, although appropriate data collection systems will have to be implemented first.
Feasibility	This research will help reduce costs due to avoiding treatment when it is not indicated. Well-defined disease criteria and a highly accurate reference standard are essential to ensure reliable study results.
Other comments	
Importance	High: the research is essential to inform future updates of key recommendations in the guideline.