This is a summary of the recommendations on tests for Lyme disease from NICE’s guideline on Lyme disease. The guideline also covers clinical assessment and management, including antibiotic treatment. See [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG95](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG95)

Lyme disease: laboratory investigations and diagnosis

Use clinical presentation and laboratory testing to guide diagnosis. If there is a high clinical suspicion of Lyme disease:

- consider starting treatment while waiting for test results
- do not rule out Lyme disease even if results are negative

**Lyme disease suspected**

**Erythema migrans rash present?**

- **YES**
  - Diagnose Lyme disease: offer antibiotics
  - Repeat ELISA 4–6 weeks after first test

- **NO**
  - Offer ELISA test
  - **Positive ELISA result?**
    - **YES**
      - Symptoms remain after 12 weeks
      - Diagnose Lyme disease: offer antibiotics
    - **NO**
      - Review history and ongoing symptoms
      - Consider alternative diagnoses
      - Repeat ELISA 4–6 weeks after first test
  - **Negative ELISA result?**
    - Offer immunoblot test
    - **Positive immunoblot result?**
      - Diagnose Lyme disease: offer antibiotics
    - **Negative immunoblot result?**
      - Consider alternative diagnoses
      - Consider specialist discussion or referral if symptoms persist