
**CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ERYTHEMA MIGRANS
IN THE INHABITANTS OF TERNOPIL REGION**

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Abstract

Data from the epidemiology of Lyme borreliosis in the world and in Ukraine, in particular, indicate an annual increase in the incidence of Lyme borreliosis. The western part of Ukraine, including the Ternopil Oblast, is endemic regions for Lyme borreliosis (LB). Knowledge of clinical manifestations and epidemiological features of erythema migrans is relevant not only to medical workers and the population of the region but also to the inhabitants of the whole country.

The objective was to investigate the clinical and epidemiological features of erythema migrans in patients with early Lyme borreliosis of Ternopil region.

Patients and methods. The clinical and epidemiological aspects of erythema migrans were investigated in 52 patients aged 18 to 70 years old, who were in outpatient and inpatient treatment at the Ternopil Skin-and-Venereal Hospital in 2017–2018. A specific diagnosis of Lyme's disease was performed by ELISA test methods, using test systems Euroimmun AG (Germany).

Results. 86.5% of the respondents with erythema migrans experienced a tick bite; 53.4% patient declared most common sites of ticks attacks lower extremities; only 6.7% of the respondents used the help of a doctor or nurse to remove the tick; antibodies of at least one IgM and / or IgG class to *B. burgdorferi sensu lato* (*B. burgdorferi sensu stricto*, *B. afzelii* and *B. garinii*) were not detected in 34.6% of the examined patients with erythema migrans.

Conclusions. The presence of specific antibodies IgG in 32.7% of patient's serum with erythema migrans, in the ELISA test, may indicate immune memory or chronic process of Lyme disease. A low percentage (6.7%) of requests for medical care both for the removal of the tick and for diagnosis of erythema migrans, requires an increase in the level of sanitary and educational work on the clinic, diagnosis and prevention of tick-borne diseases among the population of the Ternopil region.

Key words: Lyme borreliosis, erythema migrans, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, ticks, Ternopil region.
