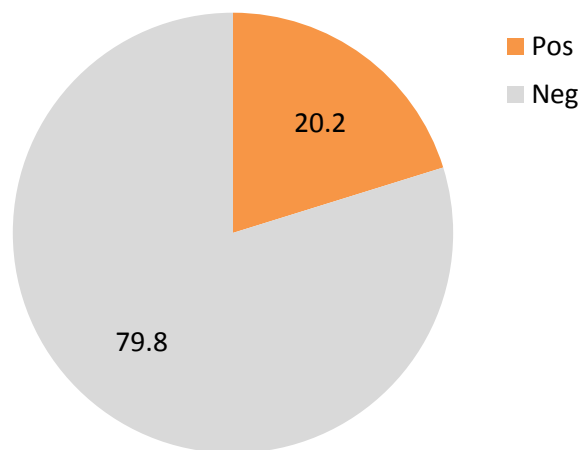


## ***Borrelia spp.*, data=2014, NRC**

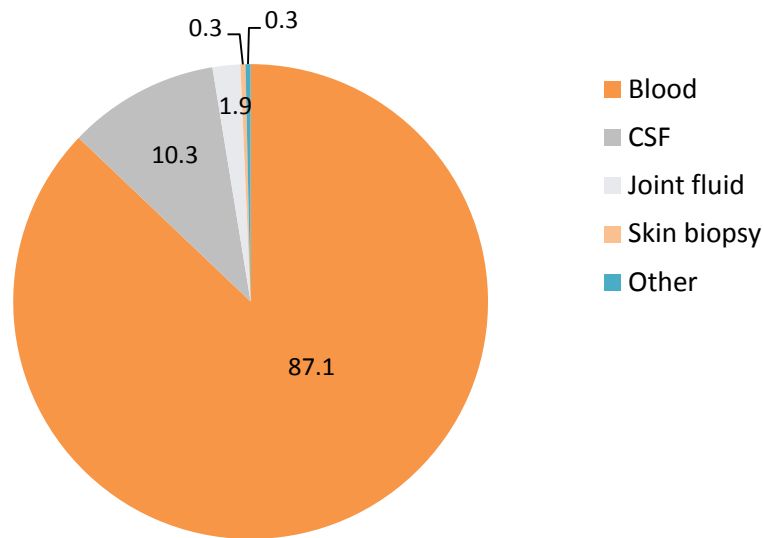
- In 2014, the NRC performed 3178 tests, of which 642 (20.2%) had a positive result, concerning 594 individuals. Twelve patients were no Belgian residents and were not included in the analysis. They were mainly citizens from the Netherlands, France and Luxemburg.
- Although clinical data are essential for the interpretation of the results, they were available for only 215 among 582 positive patients (37%). Therefore, only 18% of the results could be classified as confirmed and the majority (69%) of results were classified as suspected cases.
- 38 patients with a positive result had 2 or more tests performed, with a maximum of 4 tests in an interval up to 10 months.
- The *borrelia spp.* involved was identified for 17 patients. The majority had an infection with *B. burgdorferi* (82%) and 3 patients had an infection with *B. afzelii* (18%).
- Information on a link with a tick bite (date or place) is available for 32 patients (5.5%), with a reported interval between the bite and the (first) positive test result of 10 days to 10 years (mean of 53 weeks). Of the 28 bites with information on the (geographical) place of bite, the majority occurred in the provinces of Hainaut (n=5), Namur (n=5) and Vlaams Brabant (n=4). Eight bites were reported from other European countries.

**Number of tests performed and results in percentage (n=3178)**



The 642 positive results correspond to 582 Belgian residents

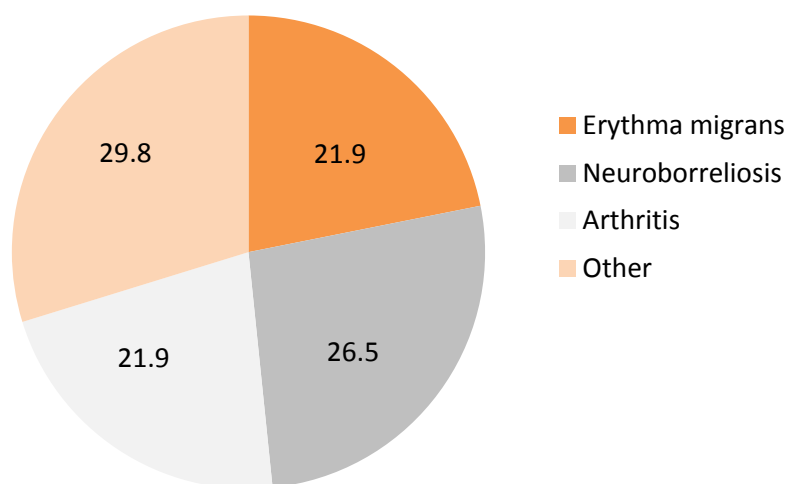
**Type of specimen sent for diagnostics in percentage (n=3178)**



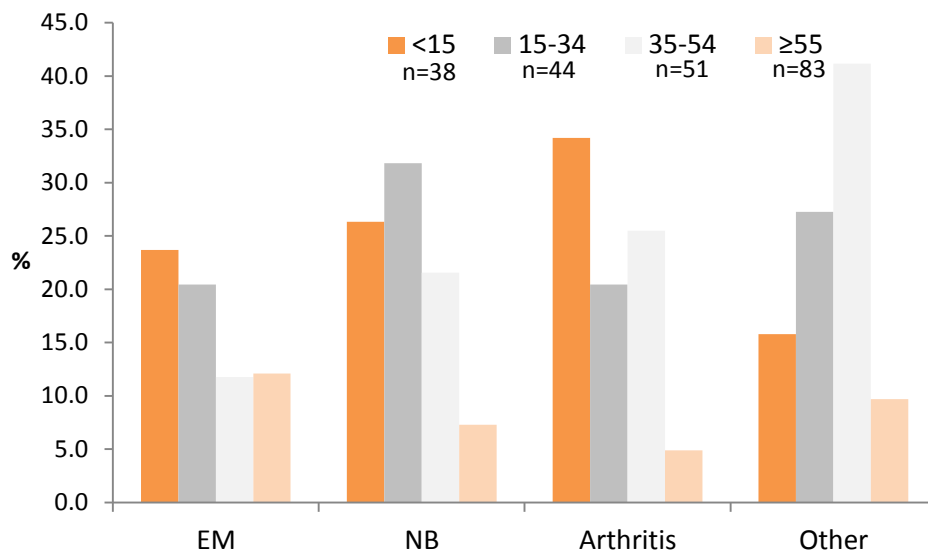
**Positivity rate by specimen and by type of test (n=3174)**

Type of specimen	Serology	PCR
Blood	564/2442 (23.1%)	0/2 (0%)
CSF	60/261 (23.0%)	2/357 (0.6%)
Joint fluid	-	12/87 (13.8%)
Skin biopsy	-	2/7 (28.6%)
Other/unspecified	0/1 (0%)	2/17 (11.8%)

**Clinical presentation in % (n=215, 37% of positives)**



### Clinical presentation by age group (n=216)



EM: Erythema migrans

NB: Neuroborreliosis

**National reference center for Borrelia spp**

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