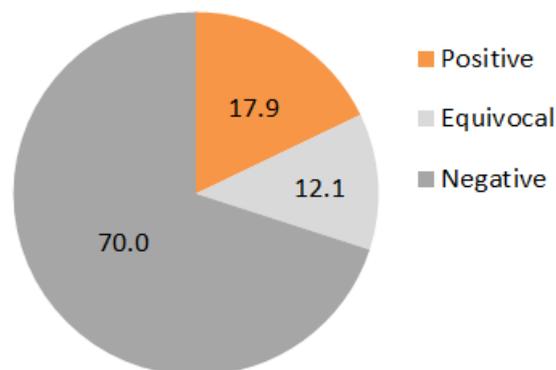


***Borrelia* spp., data=2015, NRC**

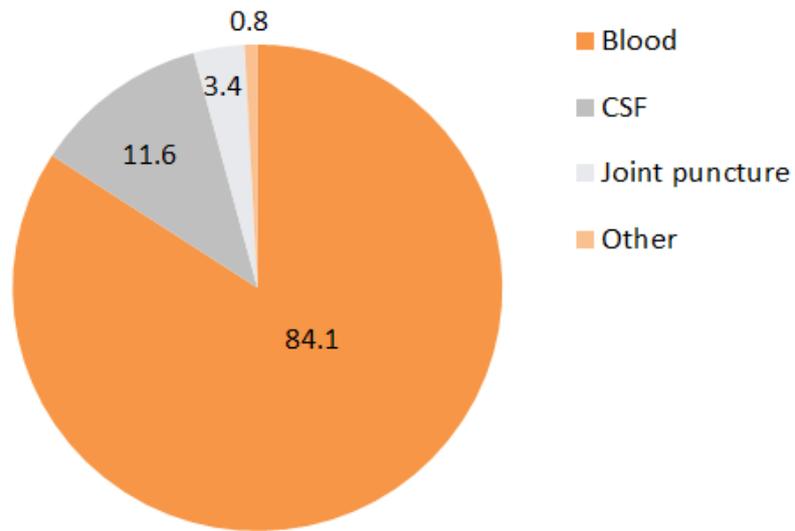
- In 2015, the NRC performed 3091 tests, of which 552 (17.9 %) had a positive result, concerning 530 individuals. Four patients were no Belgian residents and were not included in the analysis.
- The proportion of positives samples with available clinical data, essential for the interpretation of the results, increased compared to previous years (from 37% in 2014 to 46% in 2015). Among the 241 positive results with clinical information, 64 records (26.5%) were discarded because they did not fulfil the case definition (presentation of atypical symptoms). Fifty patients presented an erythema migrans (for which serology is not recommended/useful), 37 had a neuroborreliosis, 41 an arthritis and 49 another clinical manifestation (unspecified).
- Among the final 461 total positive results included in the analysis, only 31.5% could be classified as confirmed cases of Lyme borreliosis and the majority (62.9%) of results were classified as suspected cases because of missing clinical information.
- The *Borrelia* spp. involved was identified for 3 patients only. All were *B. burgdorferi* s.s.. Clinical information was available for one patient only, who presented an arthritis.
- Information on a link with a tick bite (date or place) is available for 9 patients only (2.0%), with a reported interval between the bite and the (first) positive test result of 20 days to 3 years (mean of 34 weeks). Of the 8 bites with information on the (geographical) place of bite, the majority occurred in the province of Namur (n=4). The other bites occurred in Limburg, Vlaams-Brabant, Brussels and Luxembourg (one in each province).

Number of tests performed and results in percentage (n=3091)

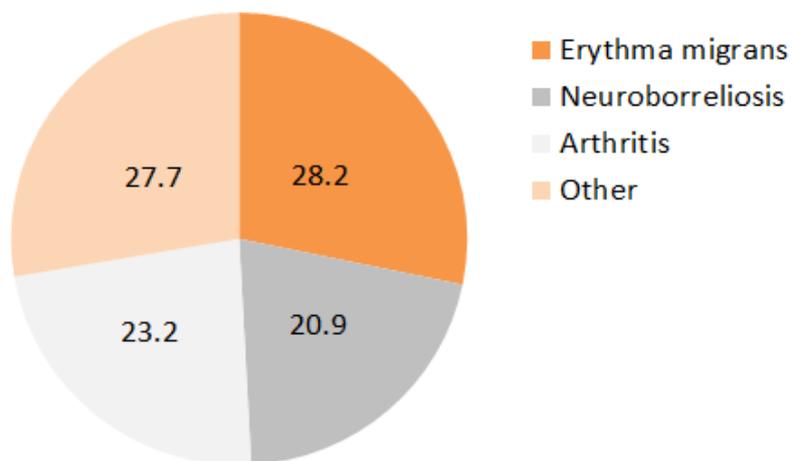


The 552 positive results correspond to 526 Belgian residents and 461 confirmed, probable or suspected Lyme borreliosis infections

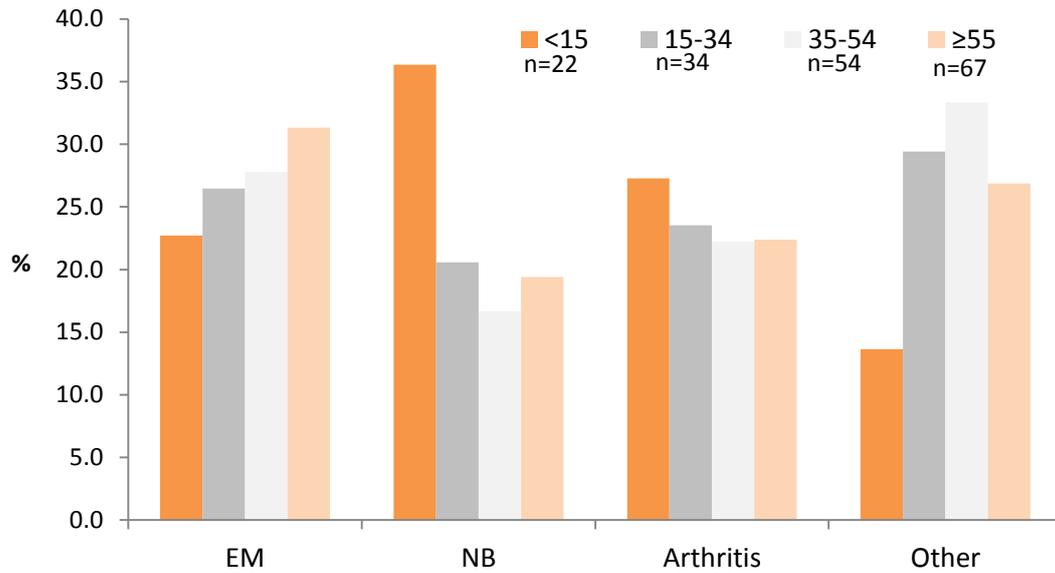
Type of specimen sent for diagnostics in percentage (n=3091)



Clinical presentation in % (n=177)



Clinical presentation by age group (n=177)



EM: Erythema migrans

NB: Neuroborreliosis

National reference center for *Borrelia* spp

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