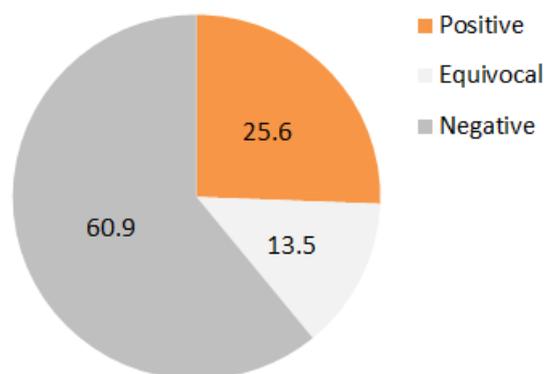


***Borrelia* spp., data=2016, NRC¹**

- In 2016, the NRC performed 2,786 tests, of which 714 (25.6 %) had a positive result, concerning 669 individuals. Four patients were no Belgian residents and were not included in the further analyses.
- Among the positive results, clinical information, essential for the interpretation of the results, was available for 248 persons (37.1%) only.
- Based on laboratories results and clinical information, 97 records were discarded because they did not fulfil the case definition of a case of Lyme borreliosis. Among these, 44 were discarded because they presented atypical symptoms. The total number of patients with a diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis at the NRC in 2016 was therefore 568.
- Among these 568 total positive results included in the analysis, only 31.7% could be classified as confirmed cases of Lyme borreliosis and the majority (64.3%) of results were classified as suspected cases because of missing clinical information. This proportion is comparable to previous years.
- Seventy patients (35.5%) presented an erythema migrans (for which serology is not recommended/useful), 70 other had neuroborreliosis, 51 an arthritis and 6 another clinical manifestation (unspecified).
- The *Borrelia* spp. involved was identified for 19 patients. The species was *B. burgdorferi* s.s. in 7 patients (all with arthritis), *B. afzelii* in six (4 arthritis and 2 unknown clinical presentation), *B. garinii* in five (3 neuroborreliosis and 2 arthritis) and *B. bavariensis*, isolated for the first time, in one sample, from a child with neuroborreliosis.
- Information on a link with a tick bite (date or place) is available for 54 patients (9.5%), a marked increase compared to 2015 (2.0%), but still a low proportion. The reported interval between the bite and the (first) positive test result ranged between 16 days to 12 years (median of 10 weeks).

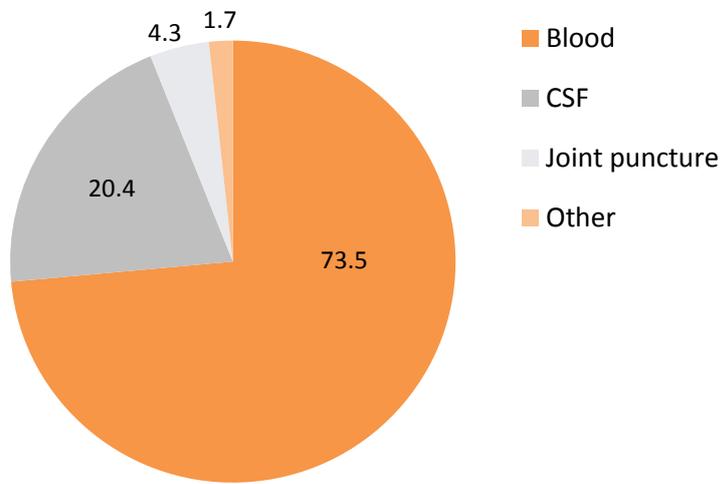
Number of tests performed and results in percentage (n=2,786)



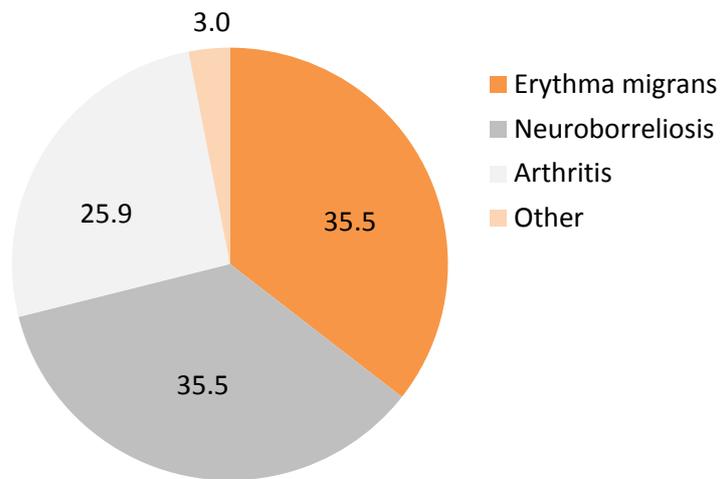
The 714 positive results correspond to 669 Belgian residents and 568 confirmed, probable or suspected Lyme borreliosis infections

¹ Results of the NRC, consisting of two laboratories and therefore not geographically representative for the whole country.

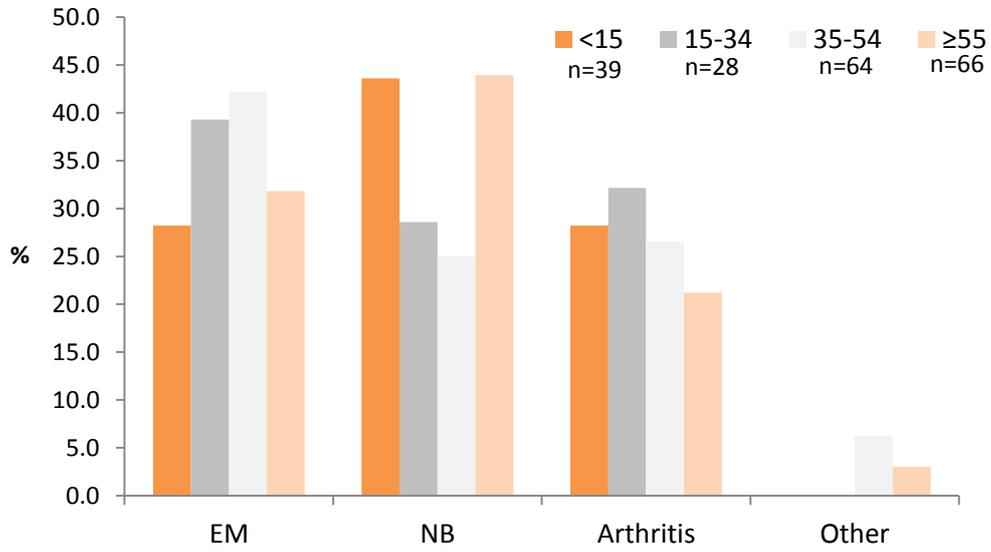
Type of specimen sent for diagnostics in percentage (n=2,786)



Clinical presentation in % (n=197)



Clinical presentation by age group (n=197)



EM: Erythema migrans
NB: Neuroborreliosis

National reference center for *Borrelia* spp.

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