

## Abstract

From Jan. to Sep. in 2002, we used ELISA kits to screen Lyme disease. In 502 tests, 76 tests were IgM positive and 60 tests were IgG positive. After confirmation with western blot test, 58 were positive IgM western blot, and 11 were positive IgG western blot. 4 cases were both positive in IgM and IgG western blot test. During this period, the total positive rate is 13% (65/502).

After clinical investigation and serologic follow-up, we defined 57 cases with Lyme disease during this period. Among these cases, gender ratio of female to male is 1:2 (19/38). Area distribution covered Kaohsiung city (21 cases), Kaohsiung county (6), Chiayi county (1), YeeLin county (1) and Penghu county (1).

There have been near 90 accumulated cases of Lyme disease in Southern Taiwan from 1997. Both these clinicians and residents in Taiwan should be informed of alert and attention toward such kind of insect-borne infection and its protean manifestations including fever of unknown causes, migratory oligo- or poly- arthralgia, fibromyalgia, polyneuropathy and erythema-migrans like rash.

**Keywords :** Lyme disease ; *Borrelia burdoferri* ; Serodiagnosis ; Molecular diagnosis ; Culture diagnosis ; Taiwan