

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Diseases from ticks
Date: Sunday, 20 December 2015 6:09:49 PM

I am very grateful to the Senate for the enquiry into Lymes like disease in Australia.

My own experience may help you understand how serious tick diseases can be.
I am a fit strong hardworking builder and a remote area RFS firefighter. Again.
Every year I pass the arduous pack test and I am grateful to be able to pass it.

5 years ago I had a tick bite that gave me a sudden and severe reaction that I had experienced once before.
I work and live in the bush and have had many hundreds of tick bites with very little reaction. The first "dirty"
tick bite gave me a big painful bullseye reaction and two weeks later a massive fever. Following this I had
ultra sounds and cat scans periodically to try to find the cause of the constant pain in many parts of my body.
After more than 2 years I finally tested positive to Q fever. *Coxiella Burnetiae*. I was given the standard
Doxycyclene antibiotic. I felt better straight away but never lost the pain.

6 months later I got the fever back with even more symptoms. I then experienced recurring fever and general
illness for 11 years. I now know many people with recurring Q fever. The medical profession in Australia deny
that

Q fever is recurring despite much evidence here and particularly the EU countries. They also deny that you can
acquire
it through ticks.

5 years ago my second dirty tick gave me a huge bullseye wound and I needed a big dose of antihistamines
to avoid anaphylaxis. 3 weeks later my wife found me semi conscious on the floor and in agony with rigours
and I was unable to see think or walk. I was used to Q fever but this was much much worse. A couple of trips
and stays in hospital later and back home again. Than another trip to hospital where I had 2 strokes. eventually
I was diagnosed with bacterial endocarditis.

I was driven to Brisbane and under went open heart surgery to try to repair my heart. All this time i was on a
drip with

powerful antibiotics. The infectious disease specialists actually argued with each other about what bug or bugs I
actually had at the end of my bed. Finally the surgeon himself suggested they ask me what I thought.

I said that I had Q fever for at least 10 years and that this was a very bad dose with something else as well. The
surgeon said he had seen it before and

that I should take Doxycyclene for the rest of my life. The specialists said I could not have Q fever or anything
they knew of because of the 12 weeks of various antibiotics by intravenous drip I had been given. By this time I
was

down to 49 kilos.

After this for 2 years I relapsed regularly. 3 years ago I googled " Q fever endocarditis "and found a document
called

"Q fever endocarditis: A comparison of treatments". Apparently Q fever / endocarditis killed lot of rich French
racehorse breeders and their staff so they did the study, compared all the results and showed a clear and
simple treatment that brought the death toll and severe relapse to almost nil.

I took this document to my doctor and cardiologist and said I am doing this.

Both my doctor and cardiologist agreed that I had to do something .So for 2 years I took Doxycyclene
and Cloroquine. I am more than 1 year post treatment which has given me all up 3 continuous years
without Q fever.

The cost of all this in my personal life and business has been many thousands of dollars. The cost to tax payers
through loss of my productivity and taxpaying, costs directly through medicare, costs in the QLD hospital
system and NSW hospital

system also, would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The doctors who helped me because they listened to me and opened their eyes are in a small minority.

They are also treated badly by others.

The medical profession often arrogantly behave and act in an unscientific way.

Failure to find is NOT evidence of non existence. If I was treated properly in the very beginning
my 15 year nightmare would have been avoided. What happened to me is not rare.

If the 3 pieces of my heart valve landed somewhere else in my body I would
never have been diagnosed and Q fever and whatever other hideous bug I had
would not have shown up as cause of death.

I thank you for reading this.I hope you all can bring some reason and assistance to this issue.Many people are suffering and desperate for help.I am a lucky one. Most sufferers feel doomed,some suicidal at times

Charlie Cohen