

Neurologists Beware of the Broad Spectrum of Neurological Manifestations of Tick Borne *Mycoplasma fermentans* Infections in New Jersey and in Other Middle Atlantic States in the USA Which Include MS and ALS Like Symptoms as Well as Other Neurological Conditions

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Quotation: “Neurologists who examine patients in New Jersey and the US Middle Atlantic States must, be also aware of the potential presence of co-infections associated with *Mycoplasma fermentans* in those tick bite patients showing Neurological symptoms resembling ALS, MS, and other neurological manifestations”.

The *Mycoplasma* are known as the smallest free-living forms of the bacterial organisms. These organisms are distinctly different from other organisms in that these microbes do not possess a cell wall [1]. This is an extremely interesting point because this lack of a cell wall makes the *Mycoplasma* cells “completely resistant to many types of antibiotics” [2]. The *Mycoplasma* are approximately 0.3 to 1.0 µm in diameter and have been shown to have the smallest genome of all free-living living bacteria [1].

Dr Rawls notes that *Mycoplasma* have been called the “stealthiest” of the stealth bacteria [2]. Dr Rawls further cites the fact that approximately 23 different species of *Mycoplasma* have been associated with human infections [2].

Dr Rawls further mentions the fact that *Mycoplasma* infections can result from sexual contact, contaminated food, airborne droplets, as well as from the bite of an insect (i.e. ticks mosquitoes, fleas, and biting flies) [2].

Nicolson., *et al.* and other investigators have noted that these organisms have been linked with both acute and chronic illnesses (asthma, pneumonia, Inflammatory Bowel Diseases; Rheumatoid Arthritis, diseases of immunosuppression (i.e. HIV-AIDS), genitourinary related infections, chronic fatigue illness (i.e. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome), Fibromyalgia Syndrome Gulf War Syndrome (Manifesting signs and symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)) [3,4].

Horowitz had cited findings in which he had mentioned that Lyme and associated co-infections have been seen in scenarios in which the infected patient had manifested neurodegenerative symptoms resembling MS and ALS [4]. Horowitz further noted that the co-infecting organism was *Mycoplasma fermentans* and that this specific species had been associated with the Gulf War syndrome [4].

Eskow., *et al.* noted the presence of tick borne *Mycoplasma fermentans* among his New Jersey Patients [5].

Thus, Neurologists who examine patients in New Jersey and the US Middle Atlantic States must, be also aware of the potential presence of co-infections associated with *Mycoplasma fermentans* in those tick bite patients showing Neurological symptoms resembling ALS, MS and other neurological manifestations.

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