



IV Rocephin for Lyme Disease Is Effective

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November 2012 - Lyme disease is a disease that affects people from all over the world, but it is often under diagnosed and thus many cases are left untreated. This condition can cause a variety of symptoms, most typically arthritic pain but it can also affect major organs such as the heart, brain and nerves. The earlier you can start treatment with IV Rocephin for Lyme, the less symptoms the patient will experience.

Lyme disease is an infection caused by a spirochete which is a spiral shaped bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Lyme disease was first identified in 1975 when medical scientists noted a significant number of children diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

Ceftriaxone (brand name Rocephin) is a drug belonging to a group of relatively new antibiotics called cephalosporins. Ceftriaxone works by fighting a variety of bacteria in your body, including Lyme disease. While the oral preparation is more often prescribed, the intravenous form is particularly effective for killing the bacteria responsible for causing Lyme disease. While this drug has a good safety profile, being used even in pregnant women and babies, minor side effects such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and dizziness may occur and this drug may cause allergic reactions in susceptible individuals. Some drugs such as aminoglycoside antibiotics, blood thinners, live bacterial vaccines and calcium-containing IV fluids may interact with ceftriaxone, thus it is important to let the doctor know the entire list of medications you are currently on.

For managing Lyme disease, the duration of treatment with IV Rocephin is two weeks if you have arthritis symptoms, up to three weeks if the heart is affected and up to one month for neurologic Lyme disease. Other conditions that benefit from IV Rocephin include certain sexually transmitted diseases, kidney diseases, various infectious diseases and before surgeries to prevent infections.

IV ceftriaxone successfully treats Lyme neurological complications

Intravenous Rocephin is also successfully treating encephalopathy, a severe complication of Lyme disease affecting the function and structure of the brain that can be fatal. This conclusion is based on a research study conducted by scientists from University of Rochester Medical Center, New York, and featured in the August 1999 issue of "Journal of Infectious Diseases." During this study, patients suffering from Lyme encephalopathy received IV Rocephin, 2 grams

daily, for one month. They had the typical symptoms of Lyme Disease including memory difficulty, minor depression, somnolence, or headache and the diagnosis was confirmed by CT and lab analysis. Six months after the treatment with IV Rocephin, the symptoms as well as the lab and CT scan results improved and 2 years later all the participants of this study rated themselves as being back to normal or improved. This study clearly shows the efficacy of IV Rocephin for managing Lyme disease.

A 2008 randomized, placebo controlled study from Columbia University, New York, detailed in the medical journal “Neurology”, indicate that IV Rocephin was particularly effective for short term management of Lyme encephalopathy, but said that the symptoms may possibly recur after discontinuing the treatment.

Another study published in the June 2011 issue of “Pediatric Cardiology”, describes a successful case of treating heart complications associated with Lyme disease in a 3 year old girl. Treatment with intravenous Rocephin relieved the cardiac symptoms in this patient.

If you have Lyme disease, consult a Lyme literate physician as soon as possible. The sooner you can treat the disease, the less symptoms and complications you will experience.

References:

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