

In a recent issue of the medical journal, the Archives of Internal Medicine, Drs. Lee and Vielemeyer published an "Analysis of Overall Level of Evidence Behind Infectious Diseases Society of America Practice Guidelines." After reviewing 41 sets of guidelines published by the IDSA between 1994 and 2010, they found that the recommendations made in those guidelines were based 37% of the time on expert opinion ONLY and not the result of any type of controlled trials.

With such astute analysis available, it is of grave concern that the Winona Health Group would have their physicians vote to abide by IDSA guidelines for the treatment of Lyme disease. Drs. Lee and Vielemeyer concluded, "More than half of the current recommendations of the IDSA are based on level III evidence only. Until more data from well-designed controlled clinical trials become available, physicians should remain cautious when using current guidelines as the sole source guiding patient care decisions."

To learn how clinical practice guidelines affect health care decision making, please read "A Patient Looks At Lyme Disease and Guidelines" at www.lymeworks.com.

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