

Lyme disease 'Biofilm' eludes antibiotics: report

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(HealthDay)—The bacteria that causes Lyme disease protects itself from

antibiotics by forming a slime-like layer called a biofilm, a new study shows.

In many cases, Lyme disease returns after a patient has completed [antibiotic treatment](#), and this finding may help explain why that occurs, the researchers said.

University of New Haven researchers determined that Lyme disease-causing *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria produces a biofilm that makes it up to 1,000 times more resistant to antibiotics than other bacteria.

They reported their findings recently in the *European Journal of Microbiology and Immunology*.

The discovery may lead to new ways to treat Lyme disease, said study author Eva Sapi, head of biology and environmental sciences at the university.

"These findings could change the way we think about Lyme disease, especially in patients where it seems to be a [persistent disease](#), despite long-term antibiotic treatment," she said in a news release from the Connecticut-based university.

"This recent finding could help to better understand how *Borrelia* can survive treatment and ... will provide novel therapeutic targets for chronic Lyme disease, with the hope of eradicating *Borrelia* in these patients," Sapi added.

More information: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more about [Lyme disease](#).

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