



Travel Health Care Products

## CARE PLUS™ TICK-TEST FACT SHEET

### **ABOUT**

- The Care Plus™ Tick-Test is a self-administered, over-the-counter test, is designed to help the public test for the presence of several Borrelia bacteria, including Borrelia burgdorferi sensu stricto (or *B.burgdorferi*), the predominant causative agent of Lyme disease in Canada.<sup>1,2</sup>
- The Care Plus™ Tick-Test, also detects the presence of two other Borrelia bacteria, namely: Borrelia garinii, and Borrelia afzelii, which have also been associated with the transmission of Lyme disease through the bite of infected ticks.<sup>3</sup>
- The Care Plus™ Tick-Test is an immunologic rapid test (“sandwich assay” used in immunology). It works by detecting the surface proteins characteristic of Borreliosis pathogens directly in the tick. The test also involves drying anti-borrelia antibodies and dyes, which produce a test signal if Borreliosis pathogens are present. The borrelia surface proteins from the tick are tested when the Borrelia-antigen from the tick is dropped on the test cassette during the test procedure.
- The The Care Plus™ Tick Test is now available at select retailers in Canada for \$19.99. For more information visit [www.stophetick.ca](http://www.stophetick.ca).

### **PROPER USE OF THE CARE PLUS TICK TEST**

- To use the Care Plus™ Tick Test properly, you must first remove the entire tick from a person’s body and proceed with the test as outlined in the instructions. If completed according to the instructions, you will have a positive or negative result within 10 minutes.<sup>4</sup>
- The Care Plus™ Tick Test is not suitable for animals or pets. The test must only be carried out on ticks removed from people. The reason for this is that a tick which attaches to a pet/animal will suck/carry more blood than would the case if it attached to a human, and this excess blood will render the test ineffective.
- \* *The Care Plus™ Tick-Test is not a substitute for consultation with a health professional.*
- \* *The Care Plus™ Tick-Test is designed to detect the presence of Borrelia bacteria in the tick found on a person. The test is not an indicator of Lyme disease nor does it detect a current or prior infection.*

### **CLINICAL DATA**

- A (2011) clinical study of the Care Plus™ Tick Test found it performed with 95.8% clinical accuracy.<sup>6</sup>
- Clinical results (2011) found the clinical accuracy of the Care Plus™ Tick Test is (95.8%) when it comes to being able to effectively test for the presence of Borrelia burgdorferi, Borrelia garinii and Borrelia afzelii.<sup>5</sup> A



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similar test in 2009 on 500 ticks found a comparable result (95.3%) clinical accuracy.<sup>6</sup> If there is *Borrelia*-antigen present in the sample, a red line in the “T” area is formed. If there is no *Borrelia*-antigen present in the sample, you will see no red test line.

## **TICKS AND LYME DISEASE IN CANADA**

- Black-legged ticks can transmit the Lyme disease bacteria by biting an animal or a person. However, not all blacklegged ticks are infected with the bacteria.<sup>7</sup>
- Ticks are most likely to transmit infection after being attached for more than 24 hours of feeding because the bacteria requires time to migrate from the tick's gut to its salivary glands. Because of this delay, prompt detection and removal of ticks is one of the key methods of preventing Lyme disease.<sup>8</sup>
- Nymph and adult blacklegged ticks can transmit infection.<sup>9</sup>
- Ticks, both nymphs and adults, can attach to any part of the human body but are often found in hard-to-see areas such as the groin, armpits, and scalp.<sup>10</sup> They are most likely to transmit infection after being attached for more than 24 hours of feeding because the bacteria requires time to migrate from the tick's gut to its salivary glands. Prompt detection and removal of ticks is one of the key methods of preventing Lyme disease.<sup>11</sup>
- Lyme disease became nationally notifiable in 2009 and, in recent years, the number of endemic areas in Canada has been expanding.<sup>11</sup> Preliminary data from disease cases reported to Health Canada increased in 2015 to 707 (preliminary data) from 128 cases in 2009. The true number of cases is expected to be higher, as cases are captured only if acquired in known endemic areas.<sup>12</sup>

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