



Spirochete



Cyst



L-form

# “Stealth Mode”

The three main forms of Lyme Borrelia are Spirochete, Cyst, and L-form (aka cell wall deficient). In its usual state, Borrelia bacteria are in spiral shape, able to drill through tissue. When its environment becomes stressful, spirochetes roll up into a ball, changing to cyst form. In this state, they are able to reproduce but at a very slow rate. When confronted with other stresses, the pleomorphic spirochetes change to L-form. Without a cell wall, Borrelia can hide from a host's immune system and some antibiotics. Then, once its environment returns to favorable, Borrelia revert back to spirochete form.

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