

Lyme disease 'Biofilm' eludes antibiotics: report

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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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(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

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