

# Translation of article in French magazine “L’OBS”

<http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/sante/20160712.OBS4549/maladie-de-lyme-yannick-15-ans-interne-en-psychiatrie-par-erreur.html>

## Lyme disease : Yannick , 15, interned by psychiatry by mistake

**Unable to explain the pains of adolescent, the doctors hospitalized him with antidepressants and morphine drip before he was finally properly diagnosed ...**



Yannick SCHRAEN, 15, spent nearly a year lying on a hospital bed, his body paralyzed, morphine infusions 24 hours a day.

This is a schoolboy who has just passed his GCSEs (equivalent in French) with honours and has a fake turtle tattoo on his arm. Nothing apart from other teenagers except that it is not able to run and, after two hours of walking, he is forced to sit, exhausted.

Yannick SCHRAEN, 15, carrot hair, milky skin, spent nearly a year lying on a hospital bed, his body paralyzed, morphine infusions 24 hours a day.

Doctors, unable to explain why he could no longer stand, or sit, or to use his legs, his arms, had diagnosed a psychiatric illness, “conversion disorder”, and thought to cure him by institutionalising him along with a hefty dose of antidepressants.

It began with a kind of flu in October 2013. But after three weeks Yannick could no longer walk, "as muscle pains were strong," he recalls.

His parents, business leaders, a couple from the Calais region, took him to the nearest hospital. He had repeated stays in hospital, but the symptoms worsen (paralysis, photophobia, nausea, burns, pressure ulcers, fevers ...), the doctors repeated that "it is in the head, it will be resolved," they even wanted to deny access to parents, deeming it harmful to the psychological health of their son.

In the end, Yannick weighed only 29 kg, having lost 16. One night the parents called Schraen, happen to watch a France 5 TV documentary, "When the ticks attack," and are puzzled by the similarities with Yannick condition. They decide to send his medical file to Lyme Without Borders.

The minute she receives the mail, Judith Albertat, president of the association at the time, got them an appointment with Professor Perronne, in Garches. He was hospitalised there but this time with a powerful antibiotic, Rocephine. Yannick says: "Within fifteen days the pain had begun to diminish. Within two months, I was able to sit down again and within four months I was able to stand up."

Today, the teenager still has memory problems and sometimes relapses, requiring antibiotics. But he leads a normal life. Later, he wants to become infectious disease doctor.

Nathalie Funès