<https://www.lymedisease.org/lyme-basics/co-infections/bartonella/>

Historically, bartonellosis has been described as a mild, acute, and self-limiting illness. However, more and more doctors recognize that bartonella can cause chronic infection. Patients may suffer relapses because bartonella periodically cycles into red blood cells, which may provide a protective niche for the bacteria

<http://aac.asm.org/content/48/6/1921.full>

Recommendations for Treatment of Human Infections Caused by Bartonella Species

Bartonella species cause long-recognized diseases, such as Carrion's disease, trench fever, and CSD, and more recently recognized diseases, such as bacillary angiomatosis (BA), peliosis hepatis (PH), chronic bacteremia, endocarditis, chronic lymphadenopathy, and neurological disorders (Table 2) (73). A remarkable feature of the genus Bartonella is the ability of a single species to cause either acute or chronic infection and either vascular proliferative or suppurative manifestations.

CONCLUSION

Bacteria of the genus Bartonella are responsible for emerging and reemerging diseases worldwide and can present as illnesses ranging from benign and self-limited diseases to severe and life-threatening diseases. Bartonella infections present a unique treatment challenge because they are persistent and often relapse and they involve an intraerythrocytic phase that apparently provides a protective niche for the bartonellae. The extreme diversity of disease manifestations is dependent on the infecting species of Bartonella and on the immune status of the patient. Because there are only two reports of randomized clinical trials for the treatment of Bartonella infections, an unequivocal treatment for all Bartonella infections does not exist, and thus, antibiotic treatment recommendations differ for each clinical situation. Treatment of Bartonella infections should be adapted to each clinical situation, to the infecting Bartonella species, and to whether the disease is in the acute or the chronic form. It is important that when the more severe Bartonella infections are recognized, diagnosed, and treated in a timely manner, the outcome is usually favorable.

<https://www.envita.com/lyme-disease/bartonella-a-chronic-lyme-disease-coinfection-is-more-causing-chronic-fatigue-problems>

Bartonella, A Chronic Lyme Disease Coinfection, is More Causing Chronic Fatigue Problems

Bartonella are bacteria that live within cells and find human beings quite hospitable. Bartonella henselae is the causative agent of the notorious cat-scratch fever, endocarditis, and several other serious diseases in humans. These bacteria comprise one of Lyme disease complex's most troublesome coinfections.

The bacteria are transferred by fleas, body lice, and ticks – with ticks being the greatest source of human bartonellosis infection, often accompanied by Lyme disease. Sand flies carry the bacteria in Peru's Andes Mountains in Colombia and Ecuador, while human body lice carriers are found throughout the world. The European sheep tick is a known carrier and five different species of Bartonella have been detected in nearly 20 percent of I. Pacificus ticks collected in California

Diagnosis Errors - False Negatives in Immuno-Compromised Patients

Treatment Difficulties and Complications

The difficulty in finding a suitable treatment protocol for Lyme disease co-infection Bartonella, comes from the fact that antibiotics slow down its reproduction process, but are unlikely to kill the infection. Moreover, Bartonella is often sequestered inside the erythrocytes or red blood cells. This, combined with an already weakened immune system, further complicates treatment. On top of this, patients often simultaneously face borreliosis, candida, HHV-6 and/or have other toxins, such as heavy metals which complicate how we can approach this Lyme disease treatment.