

The World's Top Stealth Bug Ends Marriages, Friendships and Jobs

Bartonella Promotes Addiction, Aggression and Character Disorders

Dr. James Schaller, M.D.

I hate medical drama. If I want drama I will watch a movie, a sporting event or a TV show. Bartonella has almost 2,000 articles on PubMed, but almost no one realizes it is a major source of depression and suicide, panic attacks and social anxiety, seizures, heart attacks, personality change, pushy behavior, divorce, profound narcissism, eccentric obsessions, irritability, hostility, property destruction, cursing, fatigue, chemical sensitivity, memory trouble, addiction to “take the edge off,” attention trouble, autism, impulsive rage, fighting and even manslaughter. It can cause you to have 20 types of injury to every organ of the body, and perhaps over a hundred effects on the brain. In this short article, I am going to focus on the “real world” issues of Bartonella and ignore its effects on your spleen or gizzard.

Blindness is routine in medicine. We look at what we believed 50 years ago in mainstream medicine and shudder. Let me let you in on a “hot” stock tip, or a hot medical tip for a “racehorse” that is already across the finish line. Specifically, I have spent thousands of hours studying Bartonella, and as the author of the most recent two-part color textbook on Bartonella, I shudder more each week as I deal with this infection's new lessons. Bartonella is not a shower rinse, it is a Katrina, and no one understands the levees have been completely destroyed. That is the genius of Bartonella. It destroys lives without causing obvious illness.

This is a bacterium that actually turns off a fever [1] and floats in the blood, turning off parts of human immunity. The entire world is blind to the massive destruction of Bartonella, but that is coming to an end. It helped destroy Napoleon's army and aided in their defeat [2]. And in modern times I feel strongly it is vastly more common than Lyme, and it is perhaps second only to cold/flu and the 400 million infected with malaria each year.

Currently, the ability of virtually every international lab to detect Bartonella borders on a disaster. Using human genome project techniques, 32 specific unique species have been isolated, yet labs only test for two species. When I reported these 32 species, a so-called “Lyme expert” author and PhD.,

said I am possibly wrong because she did not find it on her “Google search.” If you have this kind of anti-intellectual friend to guide you medically into new areas of cutting-edge medicine, you are simply lost. With such a sage, you have no need for terrorists. She published that medical research pearl with a serious face-”do a Google search.”

Some healthcare workers and patients in the Lyme community routinely show signs of Bartonella-type behavior, and it has often hindered unity. Some divisions are weird. Some alienation is weird. It is the Bartonella that causes the weirdness. You do not see such agitation and reactions in asthma, Hepatitis C or COPD groups. I know it is easy to say someone is a “jerk” or “loser”, but some of these folks have Bartonella in their head. They are different than the person they were 5, 10 or 20 years ago - stunningly different. They are different in a manner that is not consistent with normal personality changes. I want to discuss this in clear and simple ways below, after a terse word on Bartonella testing.

Patients with certain Bartonella are virtually always labeled negative based on lab testing. One lab recently raised their cut-off for a positive to a very high level, because they seemed to be worried they were getting too many positives. I bet they were and what they found was still a tiny fraction! Patients with clear and active Bartonella have virtually always come back negative due to poor antibody tests; poor PCR tests and poor manual smear staining techniques [3, 4]. I have yet to meet any healthcare worker in the world who has read at least hundreds of Bartonella articles. Some have read ten articles and feel they are up-to-date! This disease destroys lives and it will not be mastered by ten articles. 99.9% of health care workers have almost a complete lack of meaningful knowledge about Bartonella.

Bartonella Ruins Marriages and Close Relationships

John said he could not stand his wife, Laura. She was loud and every word she said was like a fog-horn. She was pushy and always violating his boundaries. She looked at his work emails and called him when he was in serious work meetings. Laura “never had a clue that she was doing things at the wrong time and too intensely.”

Laura felt John was always ready to jump down her throat. He was irritable and restless. He had become too much of a drinker, and it scared her. He sometimes drove in a rushed and scary manner, and often ignored her demands he drive “like a sane person.”

Both said the marriage was over and they could not stand each other.

I simply asked a number of questions so I could hear about all the major areas of their lives. And while they were angry with their spouse, both had some small but annoying medical troubles, and both had other people that troubled them. Of course when you live in the same house, the spouse, the parent or the sibling gets it the worst.

I told them I supported the idea of a divorce, but since I was looking at labs that showed clear Bartonella from five types of lab findings, from three different laboratories, that perhaps they should wait until they returned to the old healthy John and Laura, and then divorce that person. A divorce at this stage would just be divorcing a person with bacteria and massive inflammation in the brain. It would be like divorcing your spouse for being irritable due to chemotherapy from cancer.

I suggested this delay in the divorce and they each looked at me like I was nuts. Since I am quite nuts, this did not trouble me at all. It showed me they were in touch with reality. Yet after some more education, and a second review of the labs, both agreed they wanted to give the medical care a serious trial first. They would address the marriage later. I knew they would make it because they had insight. They could see the labs were off. While they did not feel they were deeply ill, they could understand the lab results. They also realized they were not at 100% emotionally and physically. The immense danger with Bartonella and other tick-borne disease is the loss of insight. It causes many deaths - heart attacks, strokes, cancer, pulmonary embolisms, car deaths and injury, suicide and death by ignoring basic reasonable preventative health care.

Today, this couple talks about being “best friends,” having a “pretty reasonable” love life, trying to fight off time bandits that limit their “nice talks” together. They are still fighting just a bit more than they were in the past, but the momentum is dying and their fights last a minute and are resolved in 10 minutes. They look back at the time when they had Bartonella and are stunned and a bit frightened that they almost walked out on their best friend. They do not understand it. They do not know why they were so alienated. Their Bartonella cure has saved their marriage. In a recent phone call, they were discussing relatives they were sending to me for treatment, and as they laughed together on the line, I was deeply moved and I reminded them of our session when we went over their lab results and they were both fed up, and both had already given divorce retainers to the most “vicious” divorce attorneys in town. All of us could not believe the shift and healing between them.

Bartonella “Drunks” and Drug Abusers

Angela was never one to drink until she was 28 years old. She had gone camping in North Carolina and had developed a fever. She went to three “top” infection physicians, and they were not sure of the cause of her low-grade ongoing fever and her new restlessness. She found her way to a psychiatrist, but one that had recently spent a good deal of time learning “cognitive - behavioral” treatments for

anxiety. Since I learned these in the 80's, I was confused why she was not offered medications when his treatments were not significantly helping her.

She dropped him and simply started drinking wine. She had wine with her late afternoon “wind down.” She had wine with her kid’s dinner. She had wine with her dinner. She had wine with her husband when he came home late. Four drinks will dissolve a brain and that was certainly happening to Angela.

But what worried her husband was she left their little toddler alone at times when she had been drinking. She became forgetful and more distracted. Her toddler eventually died in her pool. She was in the other room and was not really drunk, but not fully alert either.

Soon after the death of her son, she was found to be Bartonella positive. It became clear she was having major brain fog with even one drink. Angela realized she could not drink. She joined AA and dedicated herself to her faith and sought forgiveness.

Angela is now very passionate about mental functioning. She will simply tell you that you are foggy and ask what is wrong. And she will run down a series of possible causes. She has helped a number of folks catch medical problems like Bartonella. One of her friends, who was a very aggressive driver, was found to have both Bartonella and Lyme, and now is doing much better with treatment. He had a few very close calls where he could have been seriously hurt or killed another driver due to his agitated or impulsive driving.

* * *

Phil was a hunter in New Jersey. He caught Bartonella and slowly became irritable and anxious. Cocaine and heroin made him feel “right.” He had a family history of drug abuse and so he figured it was just his genetics. When he was found to have Bartonella, he was given Suboxone (See my Suboxone textbook) and he was off the heroin in 3 days. He had to use other medications while he was treated very aggressively for Bartonella and other medical troubles. Now he is off all illegal drugs, and he has no anxiety and feels content - “like I did years ago.” I feel the Bartonella caused his need to use destructive substances. Agitation, reactivity, panic attacks and serious insomnia can often be from Bartonella.

Bartonella Aggression and “Hot Heads”

Sean told me he would walk around “bad neighborhoods” at night, dying for a fight. If no one bothered him, he would go into a bar and pick a fight. He did not care if he was hurt. He was simply filled

with a fire inside. He had to blow to release it. Sean also lost his job because of disrespectful hostile comments to his boss. He was diagnosed with two forms of Babesia, along with Lyme and Bartonella.

* * *

Michele was not one to use bad language. In fact, as a pastor's wife and a passionate Christian, she had not cursed in years. But she went up to Martha's Vineyard and, after that trip to see some friends, she was clearly different. She had "a flu" after her fourth day, and was never quite right "emotionally" after that time. She needed antidepressants at very high dosages to keep from crying. She had Bartonella, and when that was treated she was weaned off the antidepressants over five months. Michele is very patient again. She is back caring for those living as single mothers and those who have incurable fatal diseases - two areas she feels a strong desire to serve.

Bartonella Suicide and Violence

A priest went for a long series of walks in the Texas countryside while visiting a fellow clergyman. He loved the outdoors and he loved nature. Father Paul was treasured by his parishioners. He had served them with integrity and immense love for many years. Soon after his Texas trip, his mood took a profound dive. He developed a combined profound depression with agitation. He went to his family doctor and then to three psychiatrists. Over three years he became worse and worse. A short treatment with a brain stimulation treatment helped him for 2 weeks, but soon he was depressed and agitated again. Then one day he took his life.

Some time after his death, a pathology sample was sent for DNA evaluation. He had Bartonella. Unfortunately for this tortured fine man, no one ever considered this as the cause for his suffering and the reason his mood treatments had failed. I strongly hope his suffering will teach others that, when routine treatments do not work, consider tick and flea-borne infections.

Mike explained to me that he could not understand why he had harmed his girlfriend. She was only mildly annoying, and he committed aggravated assault and hurt her severely. He had lab testing for his mood troubles and some unusual rashes three weeks before his assault on his girlfriend. He had many physical exam findings of Bartonella and he had lab testing showing he had Bartonella. Unfortunately for him, the legal system usually functions at a 9th grade science level, and no one was ever going to consider a simple case of mere "cat scratch fever" as the cause for his eccentric aggression. Mike had adopted two stray kittens months before his assault. They slept in his bed. The odds they carried Bartonella were very high.

Ignoring Bartonella is serious. It is time to put this infection front and center, and to also realize it is impossible to cure Lyme disease with a powerful immune suppressing bacteria possibly floating throughout all your capillaries and deepest tissues.

References

- 1) Lappin MR, Breitschwerdt E, Brewer M, Hawley J, Hegarty B, Radecki S. Prevalence of Bartonella species antibodies and Bartonella species DNA in the blood of cats with and without fever. *J Feline Med Surg*. 2008 Aug 27. [Epub ahead of print] Accessed September 21, 2008.
- 2) Raoult D, Dutour O, Houhamdi L, Jankauskas R, Fournier PE, Ardagna Y, Drancourt M, Signoli M, La VD, Macia Y, Aboudharam G. Evidence for louse-transmitted diseases in soldiers of Napoleon's Grand Army in *Vilnius*. *J Infect Dis*. 2006;193:112-20. Epub 2005 Nov 18. Accessed July 10, 2007. no ll.
- 3) Vermeulen MJ, Diederens BM, Verbakel H, Peeters MF. Low sensitivity of Bartonella henselae PCR in serum samples of patients with cat-scratch disease lymphadenitis. *J Med Microbiol*. 2008;57:1049-50.
- 4) Herremans M, Bakker J, Vermeulen MJ, Schellekens JF, Koopmans MP. Evaluation of an in-house cat scratch disease IgM ELISA to detect Bartonella henselae in a routine laboratory setting. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis*. 2008 Aug 5. [Epub ahead of print]. Accessed September 21, 2008.