

Does *Bartonella* Contribute to the Occurrence of Cutaneous Lesions and Neuropsychiatric Symptoms in Patients?



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Results of the study, “*Bartonella* Associated Cutaneous Lesions (BACL) in People with Neuropsychiatric Symptoms” was recently published in the journal, *Pathogens*, as part of the special issue, “The Evolving Biomedical Importance of *Bartonella* Species Infections.” The study’s authors describe *Bartonella* spp. test results for participants who reported neuropsychiatric symptoms, with a majority reporting the concurrent incidence of cutaneous lesions.

Participants completed a medical history and risk factor questionnaire, as well as provided photographs of their cutaneous lesions. As well, *Bartonella* spp. serology and *Bartonella* alpha proteobacteria enrichment blood culture/PCR were reviewed. The study took place over a 14-month period, during which 33 total participants enrolled. Twenty-nine of the 33 participants had serological and/or PCR evidence supporting *Bartonella* spp. infection. Of these, 24 reported concurrent cutaneous lesions since the onset of

neuropsychiatric symptoms.

The researchers conclude that cutaneous lesions were common among people reporting neuropsychiatric symptoms and *Bartonella* spp. infection or exposure to infection. Furthered studies, using sensitive microbiological and imaging techniques, are necessary to determine if, or to what extent, *Bartonella* spp. contributes to the occurrence of cutaneous lesions and neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients.

Read the peer-reviewed study, “*Bartonella* Associated Cutaneous Lesions (BACL) in People with Neuropsychiatric Symptoms” in the journal *Pathogens*.

The Lyme Disease Association, Inc. (LDA) awarded lead author Edward B. Breitschwerdt, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), a grant in 2020 for *Bartonella* research and awarded a grant in 2019 for *Bartonella* research, still ongoing, to a team of researchers including Dr. Breitschwerdt.

See LDA website article: LDA Has Awarded 121 Research Grants Since 1992