

Bartonella henselae

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Bartonellas are gram-negative, facultatively intracellular bacteria. They are stained purple by the Giemsa dye. The genus contains the pathogenic *B. quintana*, *B. bacilliformis*, and *B. henselae*, which is the cause of cat-scratch disease.

Disease

The first and oftentimes only sign is **lymphadenopathy** following a scratch or bite from a cat. The disease usually doesn't require specific treatment. *B. henselae* can cause bacillary angiomatosis (the bacteria induce angiogenesis), skin lesions, bacterial hepatic peliosis. In homeless people it is often an etiological agent of lasting bacteremia, rarely the cause of endocarditis.^[1]

Bartonella is transmitted by blood-sucking arthropods, after infection they reproduce in endothelial cells and in erythrocytes.^[2]

Diagnosis

It is difficult to cultivate this bacterium, and except clinical presentation, PCR or serology is used for diagnosing. It is treated by tetracyclines and aminoglycosides.^[3]

Summary video

<mediaplayer width='500' height='300'><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUEGrqHujeo></mediaplayer>

Links

Related articles

- Cat-scratch disease

External links

- Bartonella henselae

Bibliography

1. *Lékařská mikrobiologie speciální*. Brno: Neptun, 2003, 495 s.
2. BENEŠ JIŘÍ. *Infekční lékařství*. 1. vyd. Praha: Galén, c2009, xxv, 651 s.
3. *Lékařská mikrobiologie speciální*. Brno: Neptun, 2003, 495 s.

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