

Re: An Alternative Diagnosis: *Bartonella* Neuroretinitis

I would like to thank the authors for the reply to our case report.¹ The differential diagnosis of *Bartonella* neuroretinitis in this patient was considered, but it would definitely not be on the top of my list due to the following reasons.

The role of dogs as reservoir hosts of *Bartonella* spp. is less clear, as compared with cats and they are also accidental hosts.² The cat scratch disease caused by *Bartonella* can manifest in the eye with unilateral eye redness, foreign body sensation, and epiphora, while mild cases present lid swelling.^{3,4} Our patient did not have pain, skin lesions or a lymph node enlargement.

A case report⁵ mentioned that serologies were positive for both *B. henselae* and *B. burgdorferi*. That patient was treated with oral antibiotics for coverage of both aetiologies, and her condition improved.

Another factor was the financial issues involved for our patient doing additional serology tests. In cat scratch disease, serology results are also not standard. Some patients produced high levels of both IgG and IgM, others produced only high levels of IgM, and a few patients produced only low levels of antibodies.⁶

As the suggested treatment is similar,⁵ establishing an alternative diagnosis was not considered. As with Lyme's disease, there are no reported cases of *Bartonella* neuroretinitis in Singapore based on the literature search.

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