

Bacillary Angiomatosis

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Image







Definition

Bacillary angiomatosis is an **uncommon vascular proliferative disorder**.

- Primarily affects individuals with **HIV/AIDS or severe immunosuppression**.
- It is caused by **Bartonella henselae** and **Bartonella quintana**.

Epidemiology

- Predominantly reported in the **USA**, but also in **Europe**.
- Infection is **sporadic**, with **no consistent history of cat exposure or skin injury**.

Pathophysiology

- **Bartonella species stimulate angiogenesis** in **vascular endothelium**.
- The organisms may enter **red blood cells** and spread **hematogenously**.

Causative Organisms

- **Bartonella henselae** (cat reservoir).
- **Bartonella quintana** (human reservoir, transmitted by **body lice**).

Clinical Features

1. Presentation

Skin lesions vary widely:

- **Solitary or in crops**.
- **Small papules or nodules**, resembling **pyogenic granulomas**.
- Lesions may involve **mucosal surfaces**.
- **Local lymphadenopathy** is common.





Image

2. Lesion Characteristics

- **Lobular proliferation of small blood vessels with swollen endothelial cells.**
 - **Bacteria clusters are visible with Warthin–Starry stain.**
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3. Complications

Bacillary Peliosis

- **Cyst-like inflammatory lesions** in internal organs such as the **liver**.
 - **Endothelial cells in these spaces contain organisms.**
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Differential Diagnosis

- Kaposi sarcoma
 - Pyogenic granuloma
 - Cutaneous lymphomas
 - Molluscum contagiosum
 - Verruga peruana
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Investigations

Diagnosis is based on:

- Appearance of **typical lesions**.
 - Presence of **bacterial clusters on Warthin–Starry staining**
 - **PCR** increasingly used for confirmation.
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Management

Antibiotics

Effective treatments include:

- **Doxycycline**
- **Erythromycin**

Treatment duration: **at least 8 weeks**.

- **Prolonged therapy** is often necessary due to **relapses**.
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Prognosis

- Lesions **persist without treatment** but **respond well to antibiotics**.
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Disease Course

- Lesions typically remain **unless treated**, underscoring the importance of **early diagnosis and management**.