



Benefits of the Bartonella Culture+PCR Platform Test

- *Proven to be 2-3 times more effective at detecting Bartonella infection than direct PCR alone
- *Detects active infection in contrast to serological evidence of prior exposure
- *Positive PCR results are sequenced to confirm Bartonella species

Recommendations for Testing

- 1) Tissue and non-blood fluids samples - Preliminary testing results indicate that Bartonella positive results from our Bartonella culture+PCR platform are obtained more often from tissue and non-blood fluid samples than from blood. Accordingly, we recommend testing specimens drawn from as close as possible to the area of disease pathology as possible.
- 2) Triple Draws - Bartonella cycles in and out of the blood resulting in a relapsing pattern of bacteremia, generally over the course of 5 days, with some variation of bacteremia among patients. For this reason, a single blood draw may not result in the consistent detection of Bartonella in the blood using the Culture+PCR platform. In our laboratory, we have found that the odds of detecting a positive Bartonella infection are increased by pursuing a triple draw strategy, where blood is drawn at 2-3 day intervals over the course of a week, refrigerated, and submitted all at once for testing. Special pricing is available for Triple Draw submissions.
- 3) Serology Testing - While Galaxy's Bartonella Enrichment Culture+PCR test significantly increases the odds of detecting active Bartonella infection, serology also provides important diagnostics support to confirm exposure and to potentially implicate infection that was missed by the Culture+PCR platform. The best patient care information is obtained by combining results of serology and the Bartonella Culture+PCR platform.
- 4) Post treatment follow-up - Bartonella infections can be very difficult to clear with single, or, combinations of antibiotics. Follow-up testing is recommended 4-6 weeks following treatment or at regular intervals post-treatment depending on patient status.