The purpose of indirect immunofluorescence assay (IFA) testing for Bartonellosis is to determine the presence or absence of antibodies to certain *Bartonella* species in human serum. Clinically, measured antibody levels are generally considered to be indicative of an individual’s immune status regarding a specific pathogen. The presence of antibodies can indicate that a patient has been exposed to a particular species of *Bartonella*.

In order to establish the performance of IFA testing in detecting IgG levels, we assessed test accuracy, precision, analytical sensitivity and specificity. The Galaxy Diagnostics IFA serologic assay for *B. henselae* and *B. quintana* were evaluated based on these criteria and the assay has been approved as a useful tool for identifying patient exposure to *B. henselae* and *B. quintana*. Additionally, our IFA test demonstrated limited cross-reactivity to *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, *Borrelia*, *Ehrlichia*, *Rickettsia* and *Coxiella burnetii*.

We recommend Bartonella IFA serology as an adjunct test to our more sensitive and specific *Bartonella* ePCR™ assay which detects a broad range of *Bartonella* species DNA. One serum sample from the patient is typically provided for IFA testing. No additional serum is required when ordered with Bartonella ePCR™.

**Key Publications**