



## CASE STUDY

### Asthma and COPD

**Patient:** Joseph  
**Gender:** Male  
**Age:** 61  
**Occupation:** Veterinarian



**“You’re telling me I have COPD and Asthma, which are two chronic conditions. I’m not buying what you’re selling.”**

## BACKGROUND

Joseph is a veterinarian who runs his own practice in Florida. Before displaying symptoms of *Bartonella* infection, he was an active bicycle rider and enjoyed working on his farm. In 2006 he began to develop severe flu-like symptoms over the course of just a couple of weeks. These included headaches and fatigue, but escalated into a violent cough. Joseph also began to experience neurological symptoms including tremors in his hands. He often had trouble focusing, remembering details and developed problems with short-term memory.

After visiting at least eight physicians, Joseph was diagnosed with Asthma and COPD by a pulmonologist. However, those chronic conditions do not typically appear quickly. What’s more, only weeks before, Joseph was active with no health problems. He was concerned that his diagnoses did not fit his condition. Despite treatments for Asthma and COPD, his symptoms were getting worse. He eventually required surgery for sinusitis that developed after experiencing the flu-like symptoms.

## TESTING | TREATMENT

Joseph learned of a study being conducted by Dr. Edward Breitschwerdt, Professor of Internal Medicine and Director of the Intracellular Pathogens Research Laboratory at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He joined the study and tested positive for *Bartonella koehlerae* a little more than a year after initially experiencing symptoms.

Treatment for the infection included three months of antibiotics. Joseph saw initial improvements within six weeks.

By the end of the drug regimen, his cough and sinus problems had been alleviated. Over the next year, his neurological symptoms resolved, and he is back to doing many of the things he enjoyed before his symptoms appeared. His memory has returned to normal and Joseph has been able to maintain his veterinary practice.

## CONCLUSION

Joseph says that treatment for *Bartonella* literally saved his life. While much improved, he has not recovered completely and currently receives treatment at the Mayo Clinic for heart issues that his physicians believe were likely caused by his *Bartonella* infection.

Breitschwerdt EB, Maggi RG, Mozayani BR, Bradley JM, Hegarty BC, Mascarelli PE. Isolation or PCR amplification of *Bartonella koehlerae* from human blood. *Parasites and Vectors* 2010; 3:76.

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