SORTING OUT CO-INFECTIONS

• LYME-

- Gradual onset of initial illness, no sweats, 4-week cycles
- Multisystem, joint involvement, afternoon fevers
- Bb antibodies usually present, low CD-57
- Herxheimer; otherwise, slow response to onset of antibiotics and slow relapse

BARTONELLA-

- Gradual onset of initial illness, occasional light night sweats
- More CNS symptoms than skeletal symptoms, with CNS irritability, GI upset, sore soles, subcutaneous nodules arms and legs, AM fevers, swollen lymph glands
- Elevated VEGF
- Rapid relapse of symptoms if treatment ended too soon or if treatment not optimal

BABESIA-

- Abrupt onset of initial illness, obvious sweats especially at night, cycles every few days
- Fatigue, global headaches, air hunger, cough, hypercoaguable (responds to Heparin)
- Very severe Lyme symptoms and poor response of Lyme to otherwise appropriate treatment

EHRLICHIA-

- Rapid onset of initial illness, may be high fevers and rarely spotted rash like RMSF
- Headaches (knife-like and behind eyes), sore muscles
- Low WBC, elevated liver function tests

MYCOPLASMA-

- Gradual onset, may be light sweats, symptoms are made worse with exercise
- Major fatigue and neurological dysfunction, metabolic disturbances, immune damage
- Found in the sickest and poorest-responding Lyme patients (CFIDS-like, ALS)