# Inquest reveals rare conditions led to Midlands woman's death



A 47-year-old woman from the Midlands has died in hospital due to a series of rare medical conditions, as revealed during an inquest held at Stoke Town Hall. Nicola Barber, a resident of Bambury Street in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, passed away at the Royal Stoke University Hospital in 2022.

During the inquest, it was established that Ms Barber suffered from prolonged colitis, a perforated bowel, hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy, and anaemia. Additionally, it was reported that she had raised ammonia levels in her system. The pathological analysis conducted by Dr Brett Lockyer indicated that he had "never come across" the specific set of conditions that contributed to Ms Barber's death.

North Staffordshire area coroner, Daniel Howe, commented on the rarity of the conditions leading to her passing, stating, "Nicola’s conditions that led to her passing are sufficiently rare, and it’s taken some time to identify following her passing." He highlighted that her elevated ammonia levels were not attributable to any underlying liver disease, thereby contributing to the uniqueness of her case.

Coroner Howe also confirmed that Ms Barber's death was not the result of any medications or surgical procedures she received during her hospitalisation. He concluded that the narrative of her passing was one of natural illness, despite the extensive medical treatments she underwent.

The findings from the inquest underline the complexity of Ms Barber’s health situation, prompting a thorough investigation into the unusual circumstances of her death. Further details will be made available as the information emerges.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.stoke.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2633/list_of_inquests_wc_10_march_2025.docx> - This document lists inquests held in Stoke, which could include information about Nicola Barber's case, although specific details about her inquest are not provided here. It confirms that inquests are held at Stoke Town Hall.
* <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/colitis/> - This NHS webpage provides information on colitis, one of the medical conditions Nicola Barber suffered from. It explains the condition and its implications for health.
* <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hypoxic-ischemic-encephalopathy/symptoms-causes/syc-20373485> - This Mayo Clinic webpage discusses hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy, another condition affecting Ms Barber. It details symptoms and causes of this condition.
* <https://www.healthline.com/health/anaemia> - This Healthline webpage provides information on anaemia, which was also a condition Ms Barber had. It explains the causes and symptoms of anaemia.
* <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/217027-overview> - This Medscape article discusses elevated ammonia levels, which were noted in Ms Barber's case. It explains the causes and implications of such elevations.
* <https://www.britannica.com/science/perforated-bowel> - This Britannica webpage explains what a perforated bowel is, which was part of Ms Barber's medical conditions. It discusses the causes and consequences of this condition.