

THINK PERTUSSIS: ARE YOU RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF PERTUSSIS IN ADULTS?

In afebrile adult patients with a cough for over two weeks, are you asking the below questions?

Do they have...

These symptoms are **highly** associated with pertussis.¹

If your patient reports these symptoms, you could **think pertussis** and consider testing.



Paroxysmal cough



Inspiratory whooping



Posttussive emesis

Don't forget to ask about other symptoms. Symptoms **commonly** associated with pertussis include (but are not limited to*):



Non-productive (dry, hacking) cough that worsens at night¹⁻⁵



Sweating between cough spasm/paroxysms¹⁻³



Episodes of cyanosis or obstructive apnea immediately after cough spasm (paroxysms)^{1,2,6}



Upper respiratory symptoms such as sneezing, scratchy or irritated throat^{1,3}



Cough attacks triggered by eating, laughing, yelling, or exercise⁷



Cough may result in disturbed sleep, fatigue/exhaustion, and interference with daily life^{1,3}

*One or more symptoms can be present in patients presenting with prolonged cough

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2. Cherry JD, et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2012;54(12):1756-1764
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7. Cornia P, et al. UpToDate. Pertussis infection in adolescents and adults: Clinical manifestations and diagnosis. Available from: [Pertussis infection in adolescents and adults: Clinical manifestations and diagnosis - UpToDate](#). Accessed 25 March 2025.

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