

SYMPTOMS

The Symptoms are classified into 2 groups according to the time of appearance: Early symptoms (1-2 weeks) and later symptoms (after 2 weeks). The early symptoms are mild or minimal fever, mild occasional cough, runny nose, and apnea (pause in breathing), especially in babies. The later symptoms include paroxysms (fits) of many; rapid coughs followed by a high-pitched “whoop” sound, vomiting during or after coughing fits, exhaustion after coughing fits. The infants may have little or no cough.



TRANSMISSION

Virus Distribution and Spread

Pertussis or whooping cough is a highly contagious infection of the respiratory tract, caused by *Bordetella Pertussis* or *Bordetella Parapertussis*, a type of bacteria that lives in the mouth, nose, and throat of an infected person. The disease spreads easily from person to person, mainly through droplets produced by sneezing or coughing.

Pertussis can affect people of all ages, but It is more dangerous in children (less than a year old).

The real problem with the disease is that in early stages appears to be a common cold and it is difficult to suspect or diagnose it until severe symptoms appear.

RECOMMENDATION

Pertussis is treated with antibiotics and it is important to start early to avoid complications and to prevent spreading the disease. Pertussis infection can be very dangerous and even produce death. In case of severe disease, it is needed hospital admission.

Prevention:

There is a vaccine to prevent Pertussis, and the best way to protect against the infection is to get vaccinated.

Pregnant women and infants should get vaccinated. Vaccination of health care workers, and relatives especially those with direct contact with pregnant women and infant patients are recommended.

It is suggested to cough and sneeze into your upper sleeve, avoid doing in your hands and practicing good hand washing.

If you have the infection avoid contact with other persons, mainly with infants and pregnant women.

If you have you have any of the above-mentioned symptoms, or if you suspect that you have the infection, or if you were in contact with a person with pertussis, it is advisable to consult with your healthcare provider.

Self-medication is no recommended.