

SUGGESTED HOMEOPATHIC REMEDIES FOR PERTUSSIS

<http://hpathy.com/cause-symptoms-treatment/help-for-whooping-cough-when-prevention-fails/>

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Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is an infection of the respiratory system caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis* (or *B. pertussis*). It's characterized by severe coughing spells that end in a "whooping" sound when the person breathes in.

Symptoms of Whooping Cough

The disease begins with a cold and a mild cough. After this, the typical coughing bouts set in. The coughing continues until no air is left in the lungs. After this comes a deep intake of breath that produces a heaving, 'whooping' sound when the air passes the larynx (windpipe) that gives rise to the name of the disease.

The patient will eventually cough up some phlegm and vomiting may well follow these attacks. The child's temperature is likely to remain normal.

A bout of whooping cough can be very distressing for both the child and the parents who feel unable to help. Coughing attacks may occur up to 40 times a day and the disease can last for up to eight weeks.

Drosera. [Dros]

Drosera will benefit a large number of the cases, if the following indications be present: a barking cough in such frequent **paroxysms** as to prevent the catching of the breath; worse in the evening. All efforts to raise the phlegm end in **retching and vomiting**. The attacks are especially **worse after midnight**; the child holds its epigastrium while coughing. The Drosera child cries a great deal. Arnica has crying before coughing because recollection or previous soreness and pain in present.

Cuprum. [Cupr]

In whooping cough accompanied **with convulsions**, or when the paroxysms are long and interrupted, Cuprum will be the remedy. **Spasms** of the flexor muscles predominate. The cough is very **violent** and threatens **suffocation**. This remedy will come in sometimes very

nice after Drosera and do good work. The patient coughs up a tough, gelatinous mucus, there is much rattling in the chest, and the **face and lips are bluish**. A great characteristic of the remedy is the relief from a swallow of cold water. Hale mentions the usefulness of Cuprum in cases accompanied with spasms, clenched hands, etc.

Corallium rubrum. [Cor-r]

This is a very useful remedy in severe cases of whooping cough. Before the cough there is a **smothering sensation**. The child gasps and becomes **black in the face**. It is a remedy for that shot, quick, ringing cough known as the "minute gun" cough. The smothering shows itself in the form of gasping, crowing inspirations. After each attack of cough the child sinks back perfectly exhausted. No other drug produces such a **violent paroxysm**. It is perhaps oftener indicated in the later stages of the affection, but the neurotic element must be present, and also the constriction of the chest before the attacks. The crowing inspiration of whoop is not so pronounced as under Mephitis.

Coccus cacti. [Coc-c]

This remedy has paroxysms of cough with vomiting of **clear, ropy mucus**, extending in thick, **long strings** even to the floor. This is sometimes seen in children who cough and cough with this tenacious mucus stringing from mouth and nose, waving to and fro until it finally gives way. The paroxysms come on in the **morning**, and accompanying them there is often **vomiting of a clear, ropy mucus**. Coccus is a useful remedy for the protracted bronchial catarrhs remaining after whooping cough. The excessive secretion of mucus under Coccus is marked and causes the child to strangle. The **choking** is most characteristic, even more so than the strangling.

Mephitis. [Meph]

Mephitis is useful in a cough with a well-marked laryngeal spasm, **a whoop**. Cough is **worse at night on lying down**, there is a **suffocated** feeling, and the child cannot exhale. Farrington observes that this remedy will often apparently make the patient worse, while it really tends to shorten the course of the disease. The catarrhal symptoms calling Mephitis are slight, but the **whoop is prominent**. The smothering comes on with cough, while with Corallium rubrum it comes on before the cough, and is followed by great exhaustion. There is not much expectoration with Mephitis. There are many spasmodic symptoms with this remedy, such as **cramping of the legs at night**. It is a remedy that is especially suitable to whooping cough in adults.

Belladonna. [Bell]

In sudden violent paroxysms of whooping cough, without any expectoration, and the symptoms of **cerebral congestion** (swelling/congestion of the head/brain), Belladonna will be found useful. **Epistaxis** (nosebleed) may accompany, and the patient is worse at night. It is suitable mostly in the beginning of the disease, or, later, when there is fever. Often in the beginning of the disease its use will shorten and modify the disease. Another indication for Belladonna is present when the **attacks terminate by sneezing**. The cough is excited by a tickling in the throat, as if from down. Retching and vomiting and pain in the stomach are

prominent symptoms, but when Belladonna is the remedy the congestive symptoms will be present and active, the **onset sudden**; the child grasps at the throat and **clings to its mother**, as if frightened.

Cina. [Cina]

This is not always a worm remedy. It is a most excellent remedy in whooping cough. It has the same **rigidity** as Ipecac, the child stiffness out and there is a **clucking sound** in the esophagus when the little one comes out of the paroxysm. **Grinding of the teeth** during sleep will further indicate Cina. It, is of course, specially indicated by symptoms of worms and in children who are predisposed there to.

Ipecac. [Ip]

Convulsive cough, where the **child stiffness out** and becomes **blue or pale** and loses its breath, **great nausea** and **relief from vomiting** are prominent symptoms for Ipecac. A "**gagging cough**" is a good indication for the remedy. The discharge of mucus is copious and tenacious, and the patient is very weak after the attacks. Violent shattering coughs following each other in quick succession, not permitting recovery of breath, indicate Ipecac. The child is limp and weak, and there is free perspiration. Sulphur is an excellent remedy for vomiting after the paroxysmal cough.

Antimonium tartaricum. [Ant-t]

With this remedy the child is worse when excited or angry, or when eating; the cough culminates in **vomiting of mucus and food**. There is much **rattling of mucus** in the chest, but the expectoration is slight. The child demanding Antimonium tartaricum will be **irritable and cross**, and will cry, when approached; the **tongue will be white** and weakness will be present. If diarrhea be present with great debility and depression of vital forces, or if the child vomits its supper shortly after midnight, Antimonium tartaricum will be the remedy. It also has marked aggravation from warm drinks.

Magnesia phosphorica. [Mag-p]

This is the prominent tissue salt remedy for whooping cough, which begins, as does common cold. The attacks are convulsive and nervous, ending in a whoop. The indications may be stated as cough in severe paroxysms, with blue or swollen and livid face, with a **severe whoop**.

Kali bichromicum. [Kali-bi]

This remedy suits cases where there is a **hoarse cough**; child breathes superficially and rapidly to prevent attacks of coughing. It is a coarser cough than that of Hepar, **worse from eating** and on inspiring deeply; there is a general catarrhal involvement of the nose, throat and frontal sinus, and the **expectoration is yellow, tough and stringy**, differing from that of Coccus cacti in being yellow.

Coqueluchin or **Pertussin**, a nosode of whooping cough, is advocated by Dr. J. H. Clarke, of London, who claims food results from its use. A spasmodic hacking, deep-sounding, croupy

cough with coryza and difficulty in getting the breath seem to be the indications. It is better used not lower than the 30th.

Coqueluchin still remains to be tested in this way, or "proved"; but in the meantime the evident symptoms of whooping - cough, and the history and diagnosis of whooping - cough infection, may be taken as the indications for its use, as was done in my cases. In the course of these cases several symptoms of a distinctive character were removed, which may be tested in future cases, and, if confirmed, may be looked upon as leading indications for the use of the nosode.

These symptoms are:

- (1) "Itching of the palate on lying down at night."
- (2) "Stinging pain in or on the chest, with cough."
- (3) "Sickness, or feeling of sickness, at the end of cough."
- (4) "Sobbing or sighing at end cough."
- (5) "Strangling sensation with cough on waking."

These symptoms I commend to the notice of homoeopathic physicians, and ask them to observe whether their experience confirms them or otherwise. The indications in addition to those which I have found valid in prescribing Coqueluchin are as follows:

- (1) Hacking cough.
- (2) Deep sounding croupy cough.
- (3) Cough provoking or followed by intense tickling in throat, fauces, or trachea.
- (4) Hacking cough with coryza.
- (5) Spasmodic choking cough.
- (6) Cough with difficulty of getting breath.
- (7) Cough in frequently repeated paroxysms.
- (8) Spasmodic cough with intense flushing of the face.