

Bordetella holmesii

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Bordetella holmesii Latest News

A team at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, has reported a significant rise in infections caused by a lesser-known bacterium *Bordetella holmesii* that mimics whooping cough in north India.

About *Bordetella holmesii*

- It is a **bacterium** recently recognized in 1995.
- It is a **gram-negative coccobacillus** that can cause pertussis-like symptoms in humans as well as invasive infections.
- It can cause **endocarditis**, community acquired pneumonia, **cellulitis**, **suppurative arthritis**, and pyelonephritis.
 - Researchers discovered that nearly 37 per cent of infections in North India were caused by ***Bordetella holmesii*** (bacterium), surpassing the number of infections from *Bordetella pertussis*.

What is Whooping cough?

- It is also **known as pertussis**.
- It is a highly contagious infection which impacts the respiratory tract and is caused by **Bordetella pertussis bacteria**.
- It gets its name from the “whooping” sound which the patient experiences while coughing.
- It is **particularly severe in infants** and in case of complications may **lead to pneumonia** and even death.
- **Treatment:** Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) vaccines.

Transmission of Whooping Cough

- A person catches **this bacteria via droplets** when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- It attaches itself to the throat lining and then produces toxins which damage hair-like projections which clear debris and mucus.
- This leads to inflammation in the airways and causes severe coughing fits.

Symptoms of Whooping Cough

- It begins with **cold-like symptoms** accompanied with low-grade fever. As it progresses, coughs get accompanied with a “whooping” sound.
- It **causes sleep apnea** in children.

Source: **TH**

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