

Pertussis

1 Who typically gets the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis-containing vaccine known as DTaP?

- A. Babies only
- B. Babies and young children
- C. Adolescents only
- D. Adolescents and adults

2 What vaccine for teens prevents a coughing disease that can be fatal in infants?

- A. Tdap
- B. DTap
- C. Td
- D. DT

3 If 10 susceptible (nonimmune) people come into contact with someone who has pertussis, how many of them could be infected?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 6
- D. 10

4 Pertussis is caused by a bacterium known as *Bordetella pertussis*. Another strain of *Bordetella* known as *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, causes which ailment in dogs?

- A. Lyme disease
- B. Rabies
- C. Kennel cough
- D. Heartworm disease

5 How many months can it take for someone to overcome the symptoms of pertussis?

- A. Less than 1 month
- B. 1 to 2 months
- C. 2 to 4 months
- D. 4 to 6 months

6 Pertussis is also referred to as which of the following?

- A. The 100-day cough
- B. Whooping cough
- C. A and B
- D. None of these

7 The earliest signs of pertussis are similar to what other infection?

- A. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
- B. Common cold
- C. Influenza
- D. All of the above

8 About how many proteins and sugars did the first pertussis vaccine have?

- A. 3,000
- B. 300
- C. 30
- D. 3

9 The pertussis-containing vaccine known as Tdap is recommended for pregnant women during every pregnancy for which reason?

- A. To protect mom during the time she is in the hospital for delivery
- B. To produce maternal antibodies that can protect the baby before it is old enough to be immunized
- C. To decrease the chance of her older children getting pertussis
- D. This vaccine is not recommended for pregnant women

10 Who is particularly susceptible to complications from pertussis?

- A. Babies younger than 6 months
- B. Toddlers
- C. Pregnant women
- D. The elderly

Pertussis ANSWERS

1

The correct answer is **B**

DTaP is given to babies and young children in a series of five shots at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15 to 18 months, and 4 to 6 years of age.

2

The correct answer is **A**

Tdap is given to teens and young adults to prevent three diseases, one of which is known as pertussis, or whooping cough. Pertussis is a coughing disease that causes intense and persistent coughing spells that can be so severe that an infected person breaks a rib during the coughing spells.

3

The correct answer is **D**

Pertussis is one of the most contagious diseases, so it is likely that all 10 people would be infected.

4

The correct answer is **C**

Just as pertussis causes severe bouts of coughing in humans, the bacterium causes a coughing illness in dogs.

5

The correct answer is **D**

The cough from pertussis decreases in frequency over time, the effects of this infection can be felt for 4 to 6 months.

6

The correct answer is **C**

The coughing spells that result from pertussis infection can take up to 100 days to fully subside. The “whoop” refers to the noise that is made when a patient tries to inhale air following a coughing spell.

7

The correct answer is **D**

The earliest symptoms of pertussis, which can last up to two weeks, include runny nose, sneezing, mild fever and coughing – all of which mimic the other common illnesses.

8

The correct answer is **A**

The original pertussis vaccine, or whole cell pertussis vaccine, contained about 3,000 immunologic components. Unfortunately, this version caused a high rate of side effects. Because of this, an updated version, called the acellular pertussis vaccine, was licensed in 1996. It took advantage of advances in protein chemistry and purification and now includes only 2 to 5 components. The acellular version has a much lower rate of side effects, but unfortunately, is also less effective in inducing immunity.

9

The correct answer is **B**

Pregnant women are recommended to receive a single dose of Tdap between 27 and 36 weeks of gestation during every pregnancy. This is to protect unborn babies from getting pertussis in the weeks and months after birth before they are protected by the first three doses of the DTaP vaccine, typically given at 2 months, 4 months and 6 months of age.

10

The correct answer is **A**

Coughing spells caused by pertussis prevent babies from getting air in their narrow windpipes. They often turn blue during these episodes and, sadly, these young patients are at the highest risk of hospitalization and death from pertussis.

