

CORONAVIRUS and PERTUSSIS

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ABSTRACT

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is a disease whose concomitance with Coronavirus could greatly increase Coronavirus consequences. The presence of Pertussis together with Coronavirus infection would determine a condition with a higher risk of mortality.

DR BRACCO PROTOCOL:

- 1) Do Pertussis serology for all people having a positive Coronavirus buffer and if this serology is positive, treat the Pertussis immediately.*
- 2) For Preventive Medicine (4P Medicine): vaccinate the over 65 population for Pertussis to avoid complications in the event of a possible Coronavirus infection.*

Keywords

Coronavirus, Covid-19, Pertussis, Pertussis vaccine, Pertussis serology, Whooping Cough, Comorbidity, Epidemiology, Immunization, Vaccination.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is a disease whose concomitance with Coronavirus [1,2] greatly could increase Coronavirus consequences. The presence of Pertussis together with Coronavirus infection would determine a condition with a higher risk of mortality.

Since the child population is covered by the vaccine, Pertussis is no longer sought after by pediatricians and therefore attention to Pertussis danger has decreased. This does not mean that Pertussis is not present in the remaining population, especially the elderly ones [3] who because of age have not been vaccinated in childhood and usually not even in adulthood. After 20 years immunity for Pertussis, both by vaccination or by previous infection, is very weakened, so people over 65 are particularly exposed to Pertussis.

The Pertussis, in the adult and in the elderly, can have different manifestations: it can go from a full-blown fever to a small discontinuous fever; CRP (C-Reactive Protein) and ESR (Erythro Sedimentation Rate) may or may not be present. The retching, present in the child in case of Pertussis, in the adult and especially in the elderly are rarely present and it is simply a reflux. The Pertussis symptomatology in adults and the elderly manifests

itself with cough, laryngotracheal irritation and gastro-esophageal reflux, which are usually all attributed to reflux with the consequent drug treatment of reflux. It follows that whooping cough can drag on for a long time [4].

In the past, any tussigenous and / or febrile event was routinely treated with antibiotic administration, which would also have treated an undiagnosed Pertussis. Now the antibiotic is usually administered only after a medical prescription following diagnosis. But for Pertussis in adults and the elderly, the diagnosis cannot be formulated without the serology for Bordetella Pertussis, which unfortunately is not a routine test and is very rarely requested.

My idea is that in adults and especially in the elderly, when Coronavirus overlaps with cases of undiagnosed Pertussis, the dyspnoic syndrome becomes such that it requires more intubations and leads largely to fatal outcomes. The children, who are nowadays vaccinated, cannot have Pertussis, which would explain the low severity of Coronavirus in childhood.

As a result of what I said above I formulated a protocol.

Dr Bracco Protocol

- Do Pertussis serology for all those who have a positive Coronavirus buffer and if this serology is positive, treat the Pertussis immediately.
- For Preventive Medicine (4P Medicine): vaccinate the over

65 population [5,6] for Pertussis to avoid complications in the event of a possible Coronavirus infection.

Hoping that my contribution will be useful in this health emergency, I take this opportunity to remind you to follow the rules of prevention of contagion shared by the whole scientific world [7,8].

References

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