A 64-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS ADMITTED TO THE MEDICAL SERVICE WITH A presumed asthma exacerbation. His symptoms had worsened during the preceding 3 weeks despite treatment with oral glucocorticoids, leading him to present to the emergency department multiple times with a progressive cough. He also reporting having associated chest tightness and difficulty eating and sleeping, without any post-tussive emesis. Shortly after his admission, the medical team heard a characteristic “whooping” cough (see video). He was given azithromycin, and samples were obtained for serologic testing and for nasopharyngeal culture of *Bordetella pertussis*. The patient's cough abated and his respiratory status improved during the next 5 days. Approximately 1 week after discharge, test results were returned that were positive for *B. pertussis*. Further questioning revealed that the patient had never been vaccinated against pertussis. He received a diphtheria–tetanus–acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine approximately 1 month after discharge.

Renee K. Rutledge, M.D.
Erica C. Keen, M.D., Ph.D.
Newton–Wellesley Hospital
Newton, MA

Copyright © 2012 Massachusetts Medical Society.