



*Citation for published version:*

Sealey, KL, Harris, SR, Fry, NK, Hurst, LD, Gorringer, AR, Parkhill, J & Preston, A 2015, 'Genomic analysis of isolates from the United Kingdom 2012 pertussis outbreak reveals that vaccine antigen genes are unusually fast evolving', *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, vol. 212, no. 2, pp. 294-301. <https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jiu665>

*DOI:*

[10.1093/infdis/jiu665](https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jiu665)

*Publication date:*

2015

*Document Version*

Peer reviewed version

[Link to publication](#)

© The Author 2014. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. All rights reserved. For Permissions, please e-mail: [journals.permissions@oup.com](mailto:journals.permissions@oup.com).

## University of Bath

### General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

### Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

1 Major Article.

2

3 Genomic analysis of isolates from the UK 2012 pertussis outbreak reveals that  
4 vaccine antigen genes are unusually fast evolving.

5

6 Short title. Genomics of UK pertussis outbreak.

7

8 Katie L. Sealey,<sup>a,c</sup> Simon R. Harris,<sup>b</sup> Norman K. Fry,<sup>c</sup> Laurence D. Hurst,<sup>a</sup> Andrew R.  
9 Gorringe,<sup>d</sup> Julian Parkhill,<sup>b</sup> and Andrew Preston<sup>a</sup>.

10

11 <sup>a</sup>Department of Biology and Biochemistry, University of Bath, Bath, BA2 7AY, U.K.,

12 <sup>b</sup>Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, Cambridge, CB10 1SA, U.K., <sup>c</sup>Public

13 Health England - Respiratory and Vaccine Preventable Bacteria Reference Unit, 61

14 Colindale Avenue, NW9 5EQ, London, U.K., <sup>d</sup>Public Health England, Porton Down,

15 Salisbury, SP4 0JG, U.K.

16

17 Corresponding author: Dr Andrew Preston, Department of Biology and Biochemistry,

18 University of Bath, Bath, BA2 7AY, U.K. Tel: 44 1225 386318. Email:

19 a.preston@bath.ac.uk

20

21 Word count abstract: 149

22 Word count text: 3500

23

24

25

26 Conflicts of Interest Statement.

27 The authors declare that they have no commercial or other association that might pose

28 a conflict of interest.

29

30 Financial Support.

31 This work was supported by a Public Health England PhD Studentship to NKF, ARG,

32 AP and Wellcome Trust ( 098051) to SRH, JP.

33

34 Address for Correspondence.

35 Dr Andrew Preston, Department of Biology and Biochemistry, University of Bath,

36 Bath, BA2 7AY, U.K. Tel: 44 1225 386318. FAX: 44 1225 386779. Email:

37 [a.preston@bath.ac.uk](mailto:a.preston@bath.ac.uk)

38

39

## 40 Abstract

41 A major outbreak of whooping cough, or pertussis, occurred in 2012 in the U.K, with  
42 nearly 10 000 laboratory-confirmed cases and 14 infant deaths attributed to pertussis.  
43 A worldwide resurgence of pertussis has been linked to switch to the use of acellular  
44 pertussis vaccines and the evolution of *B. pertussis* away from vaccine-mediated  
45 immunity. We have conducted genomic analyses of multiple strains from the UK  
46 outbreak. We show that the UK outbreak was polyclonal in nature, caused by multiple  
47 distinct but closely related strains. Importantly, we demonstrate that acellular vaccine  
48 antigen encoding genes are evolving at higher rates than other surface protein  
49 encoding genes. This was true even prior to the introduction of pertussis vaccines, but  
50 has become more pronounced since the introduction of the current acellular vaccines.  
51 The fast evolution of vaccine antigen genes has serious consequences for the ability of  
52 current vaccines to continue to control pertussis.

53

54 Keywords: Pertussis, genomics, evolution, vaccine

55

## 56 Introduction

57 Whooping cough, or pertussis, is caused primarily by the bacterium *Bordetella*  
58 *pertussis*. In England and Wales a total of 9,711 laboratory-confirmed cases were  
59 recorded in 2012, leading to fourteen deaths in infants under 3 months of age. This  
60 was much greater than the previous recent ‘peak’ year in 2008, in which 902 cases  
61 were reported despite levels of vaccine coverage and diagnostic methods not changing  
62 during this period [1, 2]. Similar outbreaks have been reported across the globe [3],  
63 contributing to the consensus that pertussis is a resurgent disease that might be no  
64 longer effectively controlled by current vaccination programmes.

65

66 Resurgence has been linked to increased surveillance, better diagnostic techniques,  
67 incomplete vaccination of populations but primarily to switching from the use of  
68 whole cell (WCV) to acellular (ACV) pertussis vaccines that contain between 1 and 5  
69 purified *B. pertussis* protein antigens: pertussis toxin (Ptx), filamentous  
70 haemagglutinin (FHA), pertactin (Prn) and fimbrial types 2 and 3 (Fim2/Fim3). In the  
71 UK, a five antigen ACV has been used. ACV induced immunity appears shorter lived  
72 than that induced by WCVs, possibly resulting in an expanded pool of carriers,  
73 particularly adolescents, and decreased herd immunity [4, 5]. In addition, studies  
74 using an infant baboon model revealed that while ACVs protect the individual from  
75 disease symptoms, they are less able to prevent colonisation of, and transmission  
76 from, the vaccinee compared to WCVs. Increased transmission of *B. pertussis* in  
77 populations using ACVs compared to those using WCVs is proposed to contribute to  
78 resurgence [6]. Finally, it has been proposed that vaccine escape mutants are arising,  
79 as ACV-induced immunity is focused on just a few antigens, and changes in these  
80 antigens might result in strains that are less well recognised by this immunity [7].

81

82 The frequency of different alleles of vaccine antigen genes among strains has changed  
83 over time [8-11]. The most common allelic profile among currently circulating strains  
84 (*ptxA1-ptxP3*, *prn2*, *fim3-2*, *fim2-1*) is different to that of strains used for vaccine  
85 manufacture [12, 13] and isolates that do not express Prn are increasingly common  
86 [14-16]. *PtxP* refers to alleles of the *ptx* promoter. *PtxP3* is now dominant worldwide  
87 [17] and some studies suggest that *ptxP3* strains may have increased virulence  
88 compared to *ptxP1* strains [18].

89

90 The study of genetic changes in *B. pertussis* over time was hindered by the high levels  
91 of homogeneity among *B. pertussis* and the lack of fine-resolution tools. Thus  
92 recently the genome sequences of a large panel of *B. pertussis* strains collected from  
93 around the world and across many decades were generated and analysed [19]. This  
94 provided detailed information about the population structure and evolution of *B.*  
95 *pertussis* revealing significant genetic changes among strains over the last 50 years. A  
96 lack of geographical clustering of strains suggested rapid strain flow between  
97 countries. However, this panel of strains did not contain isolates collected more  
98 recently than 2008, except for 3 isolates from the Netherlands collected in 2009 and  
99 2010, and did not intensively sample a specific outbreak meaning that the genetic  
100 make-up of such events is largely unknown. Here we analyse a large panel of UK  
101 strains with a focus on strains from the recent UK outbreak with the aims of  
102 understanding the clonal structure of the outbreak and determining if there is evidence  
103 for vaccine-mediated immunity driving the evolution of these strains.

104

105 Methods

106 Accession Numbers

107 Genome sequence data has been deposited in the European Nucleotide Archive  
108 (ENA) (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/>), Supplementary Table 1.

109

110 *B. pertussis* Strains

111 100 *B. pertusiss* isolates were obtained from the National Reference Laboratory,  
112 Respiratory and Vaccine Preventable Bacteria Reference Unit at Public Health  
113 England (Supplementary Table 1). Five strains were collected between 1920-1956

114 (we define this as the ‘pre-vaccine’ era), six strains collected between 1957-2000  
115 (WCV era) and 89 strains were collected between 2000-2012 (ACV era). Serotyping  
116 was performed using sera specific for antigens 1, 2, and 3 (89/596, 89/598, and  
117 89/600, respectively; National Institute for Biological Standards and Controls, Potters  
118 Bar, United Kingdom) as previously described [12]. Tohama I (accession number  
119 BX470248), a strain isolated in Japan in 1954, is the most widely studied strain,  
120 provides the reference genome sequence of *B. pertussis* [20], and is one of the strains  
121 used to produce ACVs used in the UK. *B. pertussis* isolates were grown on charcoal  
122 agar for 72 hours at 37°C.

123

#### 124 DNA Preparation

125 Genomic DNA extraction was performed using the Qiagen DNA prep kit according to  
126 the manufacturer’s instructions.

127

#### 128 DNA Sequencing and Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Identification

129 Twenty four isolates were sequenced previously [19]. For the remainder, multiplex  
130 libraries, with fragment sizes between 300 and 500bp, were prepared as previously  
131 described [21] with modifications [22]. Reads for each isolate were aligned to the  
132 Tohama I reference genome using SMALT version 0.7.4  
133 (<http://www.sanger.ac.uk/resources/software/smalt/>). Base calls were made as  
134 previously described [21], using a combination of samtools, mpileup and bcftools  
135 [23], allowing SNPs, and small insertions and deletions relative to Tohama I to be  
136 identified. Five strains produced poor quality sequence and were excluded from the  
137 analysis, resulting in 95 strains being taken forward for analysis.

138

139 Phylogenetic Analysis

140 Maximum likelihood phylogenetic analysis was carried out on variable sites from  
141 across the whole genomes using RAxML under a GTR evolutionary model and a  
142 gamma correction for among site rate heterogeneity [24]. 100 random bootstrap  
143 replicates were run to provide support for relationships identified in the tree.

144

145 Analysis of SNP Densities

146 SNPs were reconstructed on to the phylogenetic tree using parsimony. SNP densities  
147 (SNP/bp) within vaccine antigen genes (9 genes: *phaB*, *prn*, *fim2*, *fim3*, *ptxA-E*) or  
148 'cell surface' functional category genes (591 genes, as categorised previously [20])  
149 were calculated by counting the number of SNPs per bp of each gene. The difference  
150 between the mean per gene SNP densities of vaccine antigen genes and cell surface  
151 genes was calculated. The significance of this difference was calculated using a non-  
152 parametric Monte Carlo simulation. In our randomizations of all the data, preserving  
153 relative sample sizes, it was observed how often a difference as large, or greater than  
154 the difference above, by repeated randomly resampling two samples of the same size  
155 as above. Under this protocol, if  $n$  is the number of observations that have greater than  
156 or equal to the observed difference in SNP density and  $m$  is the number of simulations  
157 (in this case, 10 000), then  $P = (n+1)/(m+1)$  is the unbiased estimator.

158

159 We performed a similar procedure to compare SNP densities in vaccine antigen genes  
160 between eras. To account for differences in SNP densities between strains from the  
161 different eras, the SNP densities of the vaccine antigen genes were normalised by the  
162 SNP densities of all the genes considered (vaccine antigen and surface protein  
163 encoding genes). A non-parametric Monte Carlo simulation compared the normalised



164 SNP densities in the ACV antigen genes in ACV-era strains with pre-ACV era strains,  
165 with P determined as above.

166

#### 167 Allele Typing

168 The different alleles of *prn*, *ptxA*, *ptxP*, *fim3* and *fim2* genes have been previously  
169 described [11] and were used to identify allele types from DNA sequence.

170

#### 171 Analysis of *prn* from UK50

172 The *prn* locus was amplified from UK50 by PCR using primers 5'-  
173 CCGCTGATTCGCCACAAG-3' and 5'-GTGCGGTACTTGCCCTTG-3'. PCR  
174 products were cloned using the Gateway system (Invitrogen, Paisley, U.K.) and  
175 sequenced by Eurofins Genomics (Ebersberg, Germany) utilising standard M13  
176 forward and reverse primers and internal primers 5'-GCGCACGCCTGTCCAAAG-3'  
177 and 5'-TAGCGAGCCAGCACGTAG-3'.

178

#### 179 Analysis of Differences in DNA Content Among Strains

180 To detect gene loss from strains, compared to the DNA content of Tohama I, coverage  
181 plots generated using the paired end reads mapped to this reference genome were used  
182 to create a heat map. DNA sequence contigs that did not map to Tohama I were  
183 analysed using Blastn and Blastx (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>).

184

#### 185 Results

##### 186 Phylogeny of UK Strains from 1920-2012

187 Phylogenetic analysis based on SNPs across the whole genome sequences was  
188 performed to understand the evolutionary relationships between the UK strains

189 analysed (Fig.1, Suppl. Table 1). Strains isolated during 1920-1982 form a cluster and  
190 are generally separated from strains from 2008-2012. The most distinct clustering  
191 separates strains carrying the *ptxP1* allele from those carrying the *ptxP3* allele, which,  
192 as found elsewhere, is the predominant *ptxP* type among recent strains. This  
193 phylogenetic analysis was extended to place the UK strains in the global phylogenetic  
194 tree described elsewhere [19] (Fig. 2). This reveals that the UK *ptxP3* strains separate  
195 into two clusters, distinguished by the presence of the *fim3-2* allele. The UK outbreak  
196 strains largely cluster with strains isolated mainly during the early 2000s from a  
197 variety of geographical areas including North America, Europe and Australia.

198

#### 199 Vaccine antigen allele profiles

200 Previously, *ptxP3-ptxA1-prn2-fim3-2* was defined as the dominant allele type  
201 circulating in the UK and other countries [17]. Typing of alleles among the outbreak  
202 strains reveal no recent change in this profile (Table 1). Numerous isolates deficient  
203 for the production of Prn have been reported in other countries, and a number of  
204 different mutations in *prn* responsible for this phenotype identified [14-16]. It has  
205 been suggested that loss of Prn expression has been selected by vaccine-mediated  
206 immunity pressure. Interestingly, just a single UK strain, UK50, was mutated for *prn*.  
207 This was identified by a lack of sequence reads mapping to a region of *prn*. The *prn*  
208 locus was amplified by PCR from this strain and the resulting product sequenced  
209 using Sanger sequencing. This identified that a recombination event between two  
210 copies of IS1663 has resulted in a deletion/insertion mutation in which the 5' 1326 bp  
211 of the *prn* coding sequence has been deleted. Aberrant mapping was not observed for  
212 any other UK strain. In other countries, a common *prn* mutation arose from insertion  
213 of IS481 into *prn*. We identified paired-end reads in which one read mapped within

214 IS481 but the other did not and thus derives from the region flanking IS481. Mapping  
215 these reads to the reference genome identified the position of the copies of IS481  
216 within each query strain. No IS481 insertions into *prn* were identified among UK  
217 strains. It is not clear why so few Prn-deficient strains, compared to other countries  
218 experiencing pertussis outbreaks, have been identified in the UK.

219

#### 220 SNPs Specific to *ptxP3* Strains

221 *PtxP3* strains are the predominate type in current circulation and appear to have  
222 different infection biologies compared to *ptxP1* strains. The *ptxP3* SNP itself appears  
223 to be both a direct cause and a marker for other genetic variations that contribute to  
224 this difference [18]. To investigate the genetic traits of UK *ptxP3* strains, SNPs  
225 specific to this lineage were identified. In total, 22 such SNPs were identified (Table  
226 2). Ten were intergenic, seven of which were in the direct repeat region of IS  
227 elements which are present in multiple copies in the *B. pertussis* genome. It is not  
228 clear if these particular IS elements are functional. Twelve SNPs were in coding  
229 regions. Of those, seven were non-synonymous mutations (NSM) and 5 were  
230 synonymous (SM). The 7 NSM were in genes within the “transport and binding  
231 proteins”, “pseudogene”, “conserved hypothetical”, “virulence-associated”,  
232 “unknown” and “regulation” functional categories as defined previously [20]. All of  
233 these SNPs were also identified among the global panel of *B. pertussis* strains [19].  
234 However, of the 22 SNPs identified here as being *ptxP3*-specific, only 10 were  
235 identified as being *ptxP3*-type-specific in the previous study (Table 2), the other 12  
236 SNPs were also identified among non-*ptxP3* strains globally.

237

#### 238 SNP Rates are high in Vaccine Antigen Encoding Genes

239 Previously, it was identified that genes in the ‘cell surface’ functional category had  
240 higher SNP densities than the *B. pertussis* chromosomal average [19]. However,  
241 ACV vaccine-mediated immunity is exerting selective pressure primarily on the  
242 proteins used in these vaccines and might be driving their evolution. To explore this,  
243 the SNP density (SNPs per bp) for the 9 ACV antigen genes (Ptx comprises five  
244 different proteins) and for the other 591 genes comprising the ‘cell surface’ category  
245 was calculated for all strains within each vaccine era and compared. Secondly, it was  
246 investigated if the SNP rate in ACV genes had increased since the introduction of  
247 ACVs.

248

249 The difference in mean SNP density across genes within the two samples (mean SNP  
250 density in vaccine antigen genes minus mean SNP density in cell surface genes) was  
251 calculated. A non-parametric Monte Carlo simulation was used to assess the  
252 significance of this difference by determining how often a difference as large or larger  
253 than this was derived by randomly resampling two samples the same size as above,  
254 from the pool of vaccine antigen and cell surface genes. This revealed that in each era,  
255 vaccine antigen encoding genes had significantly higher SNP densities than other cell  
256 surface genes ( $P < 0.05$ , Table 3), with the difference being greatest among ACV-era  
257 strains. This suggests that the vaccine antigen genes are faster evolving than other  
258 surface protein encoding genes, and that they were also faster evolving even prior to  
259 the introduction of widespread vaccination.

260

261 To compare SNP densities in vaccine antigen genes between eras, SNP densities  
262 within each era were normalised by dividing by the mean SNP rate across all of the  
263 genes concerned (ACV antigens and cell surface). In comparison to the prior analysis

264 this has less power owing to the much smaller sample of ACV genes compared with  
265 total cell surface genes. Although the normalised SNP density in ACV-era strains was  
266 greater than in pre-ACV era strains, the difference was not statistically significant,  
267  $P=0.160$ . However, the number of pre-ACV strains in this analysis was small. Thus,  
268 the same analyses were repeated using SNP data from the global collection of strains,  
269 for which the year of isolation was known [19], and incorporating the UK strains  
270 sequenced here, Table 3. Again, a significantly greater SNP frequency was found in  
271 ACV antigen genes than other cell surface genes, in all of the three eras. This time,  
272 there was also a significantly higher SNP frequency in ACV genes among ACV era  
273 strains compared to pre-ACV era strains ( $P=0.0177$ ) suggesting that the relative SNP  
274 density in ACV antigen genes has increased since the introduction of ACVs. These  
275 results suggest that ACV genes are intrinsically fast evolving and provide some  
276 support for the hypothesis that they are even faster evolving since the introduction of  
277 ACVs.

278

279 The more rapid evolution in the ACV antigen genes could be due to either a higher  
280 underlying mutation rate or different selection at the protein level. The different  
281 selection could be positive selection or weaker purifying selection. To distinguish  
282 between these two possibilities, SNPs were split into SM and NSM. High NSM but  
283 not SM rates would suggest altered protein-level selection. A higher rate of  
284 synonymous evolution (with possibly a weak non-synonymous effect) would suggest  
285 higher mutation rates. Interpretation here is difficult owing to well-described but  
286 incompletely understood correlation between synonymous and non-synonymous rates.

287

288 Among WCV- and ACV-era global strains, but not pre-vaccine era strains, the SM  
289 frequency was significantly higher in ACV antigen genes compared to other cell  
290 surface genes, Table 4. When comparing ACV-era to pre-ACV era strains, the SM  
291 frequency in ACV antigen genes was significantly higher ( $P=0.004$ ). NSMs also  
292 occurred at significantly greater frequency in ACV antigen genes compared to other  
293 cell surface genes (Table 4). The magnitude of this effect is greater than that seen for  
294 SMs suggesting the higher evolutionary rate of ACV antigen genes compared to cell  
295 surface proteins is largely owing to protein-level selection on the antigens. Evidence  
296 for a strong recent increase is less clear-cut. When comparing strains from the ACV-  
297 era to pre-ACV era strains, the NSM frequency in ACV antigen genes was on the  
298 edge of significance ( $P=0.051$ ). Overall, our results provide support for the hypothesis  
299 that the genes encoding antigens chosen for ACVs are intrinsically fast evolving, in  
300 part owing to selection on their antigenic products. We cannot discount the possibility  
301 that in the ACV-era there has been an increase in the mutation rate (but see also  
302 below).

303

#### 304 Regions of Difference

305 Deletions have been a major feature of *B. pertussis* evolution and appear to be on-  
306 going [20, 25]. Compared to the Tohama I reference genome, most of the major  
307 deletions observed among the strains analysed here had been identified previously  
308 [25]. Numerous small deletions were found in only a few, or just one isolate,  
309 suggesting that deletion of DNA is common among *B. pertussis* strains. Interestingly,  
310 some deletions appeared specific to the UK *ptxP3* strains but no deletions specific to  
311 outbreak isolates were detected (Suppl. Fig 1).

312

313 Regions from individual strains that were not present in the Tohama I reference  
314 genome were investigated by BLAST analyses. These regions were also found within  
315 other *B. pertussis* genomes (BP18323 and CS), or in *B. bronchiseptica* RB50, similar  
316 to that reported in other studies [26]. Thus there were no novel insertions or gene  
317 acquisition among outbreak isolates.

318

## 319 Discussion

320 The resurgence of pertussis in countries with high levels of vaccination has caused  
321 widespread concern. Among other factors, *B. pertussis* evolution away from efficient  
322 control by vaccine-induced immunity has been proposed as a contributor to this.  
323 Recently, whole genome sequencing was used to define global genetic variability  
324 among *B. pertussis* isolates and this identified genetic changes in the *B. pertussis*  
325 population over time [19].

326

327 Here we have analysed in detail the genomes of UK *B. pertussis* isolates with  
328 emphasis on strains from the 2012 outbreak. For the first time we show that many  
329 genetically distinct *B. pertussis* strains contributed to this outbreak and importantly,  
330 that it was not due to the emergence of a novel, hypervirulent clone or expansion of  
331 an individual lineage. Furthermore, outbreak strains were genetically very similar to  
332 those circulating during periods when the incidence of pertussis was low.

333

334 The *ptxP3* type is the dominant clone world-wide and UK outbreak strains are also  
335 predominantly of this type. Analysis of global isolates identified just 19 SNPs as  
336 being *ptxP3*-specific [19]. Here, 22 SNPs distinguished *ptxP3* from *ptxP1* strains.  
337 However, just 10 of these were common to both sets of *ptxP3*-specific SNPs. If *ptxP3*

338 strains have increased fitness or virulence compared to older isolates, our analysis  
339 suggests that very few SNPs are responsible for this, or that particular combinations  
340 of SNPs are important, only some of which are *ptxP3*-specific. Overall, these data  
341 argue against large-scale genetic changes being behind the recent resurgence in  
342 pertussis.

343

344 Changes in alleles of the genes encoding vaccine antigens have been well documented  
345 (for example, [27]) and supports the hypothesis that selection pressure from ACV  
346 induced immunity is a driver of *B. pertussis* evolution. However, definitive studies to  
347 demonstrate that allelic variation enhances evasion of vaccine-mediated immunity are  
348 lacking and particularly difficult to perform given the inability to conduct studies with  
349 human hosts and that studies using animal models struggle to detect subtle changes  
350 and will not include population level effects that are certainly important for selection  
351 of variants among *B. pertussis* worldwide. Here we provide compelling evidence that  
352 genes encoding ACV antigens are evolving more rapidly than other cell surface genes  
353 (which we consider the most suitable comparator group), containing a significantly  
354 higher frequency of SNPs in each of the vaccine eras. Interestingly, this was true even  
355 in the pre-vaccine era. It is likely that even in the absence of vaccination, the natural  
356 immune response to these antigens creates selective pressure, particularly for a  
357 pathogen that is restricted to the human respiratory tract. Of particular importance is  
358 that we calculated that ACV antigen gene evolution rates have increased significantly  
359 since the introduction of ACVs, the first demonstration of this effect. This might  
360 suggest that the use of ACVs has increased selection pressure on ACV antigens,  
361 selecting for ACV antigen gene variants. However, we also calculated that while the  
362 frequency of SM in ACV antigen genes was significantly higher in ACV era strains



363 compared to older strains, the frequency of NSM was on the edge of significance  
364 ( $P=0.051$ ). In turn this suggests that selection pressure from vaccine-mediated  
365 immunity is not the sole driving force for ACV antigen gene variation. A different  
366 interpretation is that the mutation rate of ACV antigen genes has increased since the  
367 introduction of ACVs. If synonymous sites are under weak purifying selection (i.e.  
368 not perfectly neutral), then there is a lag between a SNP arising and its elimination by  
369 this selection, resulting in an excess of SNPs in the modern era. However, normalising  
370 ACV gene SNP rates by the SNP rates for all genes within the era largely eliminates  
371 this effect (i.e. SMs in cell surface genes should be equally over-represented in the  
372 modern era). However, if SMs in ACV genes and cell surface genes are under  
373 different intensities of purifying selection, then our result could be found.

374

375 Either way, the more rapid evolution at the protein level (as determined by NSM) of  
376 ACV proteins compared to other cell surface proteins, across all eras suggests that  
377 strains will become increasingly mismatched to those used for vaccine production and  
378 this could lead to decreased vaccine efficacy over time. The ACV antigens were  
379 chosen on the basis of their immunogenicity but it could be that this property has  
380 driven the relatively high evolution rates of the genes encoding these antigens. Our  
381 results raise fresh concerns over the ability of current acellular pertussis vaccines to  
382 continue to control disease.

383

#### 384 Funding

385 This work was supported by a Public Health England PhD Studentship to NKF, ARG,  
386 AP and Wellcome Trust (Grant number 098051) to SRH, JP.

387

388 References

- 389 1. Public Health England. Enhanced Pertussis Surveillance. **2014**. Available at:  
390 [http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\\_C/1317133571726](http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1317133571726). Accessed  
391 November 2014.
- 392 2. Public Health England. Available at  
393 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whooping-cough-pertussis-statistics>.  
394 Accessed November 2014.
- 395 3. Jakinovich A, Sood SK. Pertussis: still a cause of death, seven decades into  
396 vaccination. *Curr Opin Pediatr* **2014**; 26:597-604.
- 397 4. Rendi-Wagner P, Kundi M, Mikolasek A, Vecsei A, Fruhwirth M, Kollaritsch H.  
398 Hospital-based active surveillance of childhood pertussis in Austria from 1996 to  
399 2003: estimates of incidence and vaccine effectiveness of whole-cell and acellular  
400 vaccine. *Vaccine* **2006**; 24:5960-5.
- 401 5. Witt MA, Arias L, Katz PH, Truong ET, Witt DJ. Reduced risk of pertussis among  
402 persons ever vaccinated with whole cell pertussis vaccine compared to  
403 recipients of acellular pertussis vaccines in a large US cohort. *Clin Infect Dis*  
404 **2013**; 56:1248-54.
- 405 6. Warfel JM, Zimmerman LI, Merkel TJ. Acellular pertussis vaccines protect  
406 against disease but fail to prevent infection and transmission in a nonhuman  
407 primate model. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **2013**; 111:787-92.
- 408 7. Poolman JT. Shortcomings of pertussis vaccines: why we need a third  
409 generation vaccine. *Expert Rev Vaccines* **2014**; 13:1159-62.
- 410 8. Bottero D, Gaillard ME, Basile LA, Fritz M, Hozbor DF. Genotypic and  
411 phenotypic characterization of *Bordetella pertussis* strains used in different  
412 vaccine formulations in Latin America. *J Appl Microbiol* **2012**; 112:1266-76.

- 413 9. Elomaa A, Advani A, Donnelly D, et al. Population dynamics of *Bordetella*  
414 *pertussis* in Finland and Sweden, neighbouring countries with different  
415 vaccination histories. *Vaccine* **2007**; 25:918-26.
- 416 10. Komatsu E, Yamaguchi F, Abe A, Weiss AA, Watanabe M. Synergic effect of  
417 genotype changes in pertussis toxin and pertactin on adaptation to an acellular  
418 pertussis vaccine in the murine intranasal challenge model. *Clin Vaccine*  
419 *Immunol* **2010**; 17:807-12.
- 420 11. Mooi FR. *Bordetella pertussis* and vaccination: the persistence of a genetically  
421 monomorphic pathogen. *Infect Genet Evol* **2010**; 10:36-49.
- 422 12. Litt DJ, Neal SE, Fry NK. Changes in genetic diversity of the *Bordetella*  
423 *pertussis* population in the United Kingdom between 1920 and 2006 reflect  
424 vaccination coverage and emergence of a single dominant clonal type. *J Clin*  
425 *Microbiol* **2009**; 47:680-8.
- 426 13. Van Loo IH, Mooi FR. Changes in the Dutch *Bordetella pertussis* population in  
427 the first 20 years after the introduction of whole-cell vaccines. *Microbiology*  
428 **2002**; 148:2011-8.
- 429 14. Bouchez V, Brun D, Cantinelli T, Dore G, Njamkepo E, Guiso N. First report  
430 and detailed characterization of *B. pertussis* isolates not expressing Pertussis  
431 Toxin or Pertactin. *Vaccine* **2009**; 27:6034-41.
- 432 15. Lam C, Octavia S, Ricafort L, et al. Rapid increase in pertactin-deficient  
433 *Bordetella pertussis* isolates, Australia. *Emerg Infect Dis* **2014**; 20:626-33.
- 434 16. Otsuka N, Han HJ, Toyozumi-Ajisaka H, et al. Prevalence and genetic  
435 characterization of pertactin-deficient *Bordetella pertussis* in Japan. *PloS One*  
436 **2012**; 7:e31985.

- 437 17. Kallonen T, He Q. *Bordetella pertussis* strain variation and evolution  
438 postvaccination. *Expert Rev Vaccines* **2009**; 8:863-75.
- 439 18. King AJ, van der Lee S, Mohangoo A, van Gent M, van der Ark A, van de  
440 Waterbeemd B. Genome-wide gene expression analysis of *Bordetella pertussis*  
441 isolates associated with a resurgence in pertussis: elucidation of factors involved  
442 in the increased fitness of epidemic strains. *PloS One* **2013**; 8:e66150.
- 443 19. Bart MJ, Harris SR, Advani A, et al. Global population structure and evolution  
444 of *Bordetella pertussis* and their relationship with vaccination. *MBio* **2014**; 5.
- 445 20. Parkhill J, Sebahia M, Preston A, et al. Comparative analysis of the genome  
446 sequences of *Bordetella pertussis*, *Bordetella parapertussis* and *Bordetella*  
447 *bronchiseptica*. *Nat Genet* **2003**; 35:32-40.
- 448 21. Harris SR, Feil EJ, Holden MT, et al. Evolution of MRSA during hospital  
449 transmission and intercontinental spread. *Science* **2010**; 327:469-74.
- 450 22. Quail MA, Otto TD, Gu Y, et al. Optimal enzymes for amplifying sequencing  
451 libraries. *Nat Methods* **2012**; 9:10-1.
- 452 23. Danecek P, Auton A, Abecasis G, et al. The variant call format and VCFtools.  
453 *Bioinformatics* **2011**; 27:2156-8.
- 454 24. Stamatakis A. RAxML-VI-HPC: maximum likelihood-based phylogenetic  
455 analyses with thousands of taxa and mixed models. *Bioinformatics* **2006**;  
456 22:2688-90.
- 457 25. Caro V, Bouchez V, Guiso N. Is the sequenced *Bordetella pertussis* strain  
458 Tohama I representative of the species? *J Clin Microbiol* **2008**; 46:2125-8.
- 459 26. Kallonen T, Grondahl-Yli-Hannuksela K, Elomaa A, et al. Differences in the  
460 genomic content of *Bordetella pertussis* isolates before and after introduction of

461 pertussis vaccines in four European countries. *Infect Genet Evol* **2011**; 11:2034-  
462 42.

463 27. van Gent M, Bart MJ, van der Heide HG, Heuvelman KJ, Mooi FR. Small  
464 mutations in *Bordetella pertussis* are associated with selective sweeps. *PloS One*  
465 **2012**; 7:e46407.

466

467

468 Figure Legends.

469 Figure 1. Phylogenetic tree depicting the evolutionary relationships among the UK *B.*  
470 *pertussis* isolates studied here. Maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic analysis was  
471 carried out on variable sites from across the whole genomes using RAxML. Strains  
472 are shaded according to their year of isolation and *ptxP* type.

473

474 Figure 2. Phylogenetic relationships of UK strains within a global context. The UK  
475 isolates analysed here are indicated.

476

477 Supplemental Table 1.

478 Details of strains analysed in this study.

479

480 Supplemental Figure 1.

481 A heat map of coverage plots of the sequence reads of each UK strain mapped to the  
482 Tohama I reference genome. Black regions indicate sequence common to both query  
483 and reference genomes, white regions indicate regions of the reference genome that  
484 are absent from the query strain genomes.

485 Table 1. Frequency (% of strains tested) of vaccine antigen encoding gene alleles  
 486 among UK strains.

		<b>Period</b>		
		<b>Prevaccine</b>	<b>WCV</b>	<b>ACV</b>
		<b>1920-1956</b>	<b>1957-2000</b>	<b>2001-2012</b>
<b>No. of strains</b>		5	6	84
<b>ptxP</b>	<b>1</b>	100	100	6
	<b>3</b>	0	0	94
<b>ptxA</b>	<b>1</b>	20	100	100
	<b>2</b>	80	0	0
<b>*Prn</b>	<b>1</b>	100	84	5
	<b>2</b>	0	0	91
	<b>3</b>	0	16	3
	<b>4</b>	0	0	1
<b>Fim2-</b>	<b>1</b>	100	100	100
<b>Fim3-</b>	<b>1</b>	100	100	70
	<b>2</b>	0	0	29
	<b>3</b>	0	0	1
<b>**Serotype</b>	<b>1</b>	20	0	0
	<b>1,2</b>	40	50	37
	<b>1,3</b>	20	17	63
	<b>1,2,3</b>	20	33	0

487

488 \*Prn allele type was determined for just 76 ACV era strains due to poor mapping of  
489 reads in this region in 8 strains.  
490 \*\* Serotype was not determined for one ACV era strain, thus frequencies are based on  
491 83, not 84, strains in this era.  
492

493 Table 2. SNPs specific to UK *ptxP3* strains.

Location <sup>a</sup>	Type <sup>b</sup>	Mutation <sup>c</sup>	Global <i>ptxP3</i> <sup>d</sup>	Details
<b>36857</b>	INT	A:G	Yes	93 bp upstream of BP0032 (encoding a putative transport protein), 156bp upstream of BP0033 (encoding GlyQ-glycyl-tRNA synthetase alpha chain)
<b>617083</b>	INT	T:G	No	within the 5' repeat region of IS481 (BP0611). 31bp upstream of transposase start codon.
<b>617084</b>	INT	C:T	No	within the 5' repeat region of IS481 (BP0611). 32bp upstream of transposase start codon.
<b>1077844</b>	INT	C:T	No	within the 5' repeat region of IS1663 (BP1035). 139bp upstream of transposase start codon.
<b>1170424</b>	INT	A:G	No	within the 5' repeat region of IS481 (BP1114). 31bp upstream of transposase start codon.
<b>1222400</b>	INT	A:C	No	within the 5' repeat region of IS481 (BP1157). 31 bp upstream of transposase start codon.
<b>1635654</b>	INT	T:G	No	within the 5' repeat region of IS481 (BP1557). 31 bp upstream of transposase start codon.
<b>2259917</b>	INT	G:C	No	within the 5' repeat region of IS481 (BP2135). 98 bp upstream of transposase start codon.
<b>3263622</b>	INT	A:C	Yes	193 bp away from BP3062. Putative integral membrane transport protein.
<b>3988168</b>	INT	G:A	Yes	89 nucleotides away from the start codon of



---

				ptxA. ptxP3allele.
<b>196307</b>	NSM	T:C	Yes	BP0194. Putative transport protein.
<b>299559</b>	NSM	C:T	Yes	BP0292. Pseudogene. Conserved hypothetical protein.
<b>1331840</b>	NSM	G:A	Yes	Pseudogene. BP1261. Hypothetical protein.
<b>1547488</b>	NSM	A:G	No	BP1471. Conserved hypothetical protein.
<b>2374322</b>	NSM	T:C	Yes	BP2249. BscI. Type III secretion apparatus protein.
<b>2651008</b>	NSM	G:A	Yes	BP2502. Hypothetical protein.
<b>3134458</b>	NSM	G:C	No	BP2946. Probable transcriptional regulator.
<b>185405</b>	SM	G:A	No	BP0184. Putative periplasmic protein.
<b>518837</b>	SM	T:C	No	BP0507. Putative membrane protein.
<b>694521</b>	SM	A:G	Yes	BP0678. Putative peptide chain release factor.
<b>3840411</b>	SM	G:A	Yes	BP3630. RpsH. 30S ribosomal protein.
<b>3991376</b>	SM	C:T	No	BP3787. PtxC. Pertussis toxin subunit protein.

---

494 <sup>a</sup> Tohama I reference genome coordinates (accession no. BX470248) .

495 <sup>b</sup> Int: SNP is in an intergenic region. NSM: non-synonymous mutation, SM:  
496 synonymous mutation.

497 <sup>c</sup> e.g. C:T – C to T mutation.

498 <sup>d</sup> SNP is also defined as *ptxP3*-specific in study of global *B. pertussis* population (1).

499

500 Table 3.  
 501 SNP rates in vaccine antigen encoding genes compared to other cell surface genes for  
 502 the different vaccine eras among UK strains and globally.

<b>Vaccine era.</b> <b>(No. of strains)</b>	<b>mean SNP/bp</b> <b>vaccine</b> <b>antigen</b> <b>genes</b>	<b>mean</b> <b>SNP/bp</b> <b>cell</b> <b>surface</b> <b>genes</b>	<b>Difference</b> <b>(vaccine</b> <b>antigens</b> <b>- cell</b> <b>surface)</b>	<b>Difference</b> <b>normalized</b> <b>(Difference/mean</b> <b>SNP density)</b>	<b>P</b> <b>(SNP</b> <b>rate</b> <b>&gt; SNP</b> <b>rate</b> <b>cell</b> <b>surface)</b>
<b>UK Pre- 1920-1956 (5)</b>	$3 \times 10^{-4}$	$7.8 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.22 \times 10^{-4}$	2.72	0.045
<b>UK WCV 1957-2000 (6)</b>	$4.75 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.9 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.17 \times 10^{-4}$	6.40	0.016
<b>UK ACV 2001-2012 (84)</b>	$1.73 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.55 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.57 \times 10^{-3}$	8.82	0.0004
<b>Global Pre- 1920-1956 (19)</b>	$1.45 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.85 \times 10^{-4}$	$8.62 \times 10^{-4}$	1.44	0.012
<b>Global WCV 1957-2000 (204)</b>	$2.62 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.01 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.61 \times 10^{-3}$	1.56	0.002
<b>Global ACV 2001-2012 (188)</b>	$2.91 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.23 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.49 \times 10^{-3}$	5.41	0.0001

503

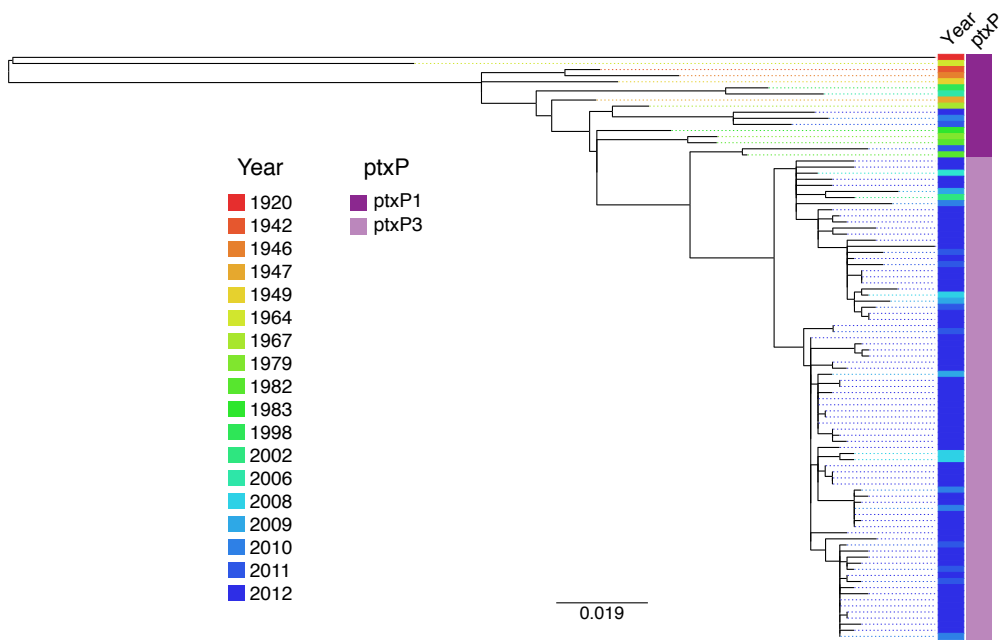
504

505 Table 4. Synonymous (SM) and non-synonymous (NSM) mutation rates in vaccine  
 506 antigen genes compared to other cell surface genes among strains isolated during the  
 507 different vaccine eras.

508

<b>Vaccine era. (No. of strains)</b>	<b>mean SNP/bp vaccine antigen genes</b>	<b>mean SNP/bp cell surface genes</b>	<b>Difference (vaccine antigens - cell surface)</b>	<b>Difference normalized (Difference/mean SNP density)</b>	<b>P (SNP rate vaccine antigens &gt; SNP rate cell surface)</b>
<b>SM Global Pre- 1920-1956 (19)</b>	1.32 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	2.4 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	-1.07 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	-0.45	0.627
<b>SM Global WCV 1957-2000 (204)</b>	9.66 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	4.23 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	5.43 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.26	0.045
<b>SM Global ACV 2001-2012 (188)</b>	9.68 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.76 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	7.92 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	4.20	0.011
<b>NSM Global Pre- 1920-1956 (19)</b>	1.18 x10 <sup>-3</sup>	3.40 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	8.38 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	2.38	0.006
<b>NSM Global WCV 1957-2000 (204)</b>	1.96 x10 <sup>-3</sup>	5.83 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.37 x10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.28	0.002
<b>NSM Global ACV 2001-2012 (188)</b>	1.95 x10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.38 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.71 x10 <sup>-3</sup>	6.48	0.0002

509  
510



511

512

513

