

Supplementary materials

Somatically evoked cough responses help to identify patients with difficult-to-treat chronic cough: A six-month observational cohort study

Figure S1. Photographic representation of techniques used for mechanical stimulation of the somatic points for cough.

Techniques for stimulating discrete areas of the neck and upper trunk to assess the presence of somatic points for cough or urge to cough in patients with chronic cough. Two of the Authors (GF and DM) served as models in the illustration. In the responsive patients, coughing or an urge to cough (UTC) could be evoked by full vertical extension (A) and flexion (B) of the neck, by digital pressure along both sides of the neck anterior to the sternocleidomastoid muscle (C), as well as by pressure at level of the jugular notch (D); less frequently, finger pressure along the sternal bone - particularly the lower third toward the xiphoidal process (E) - and the lower cervical or first dorsal vertebrae (F) also caused coughing or an urge to cough sensation. For each manoeuver, the stimulation time was about 5 seconds. The pressure applied varied with the area being stimulated; as a rule, an about 2.5 Kg pressure was required for manoeuvres E and F (see Reference 6). Lower pressures were applied in all other conditions.

Figure S2. Flow chart of recruitment and follow-up.

V1-V4, visit 1-4; FU, follow-up; SPC, somatic points for cough.

Figure S1.

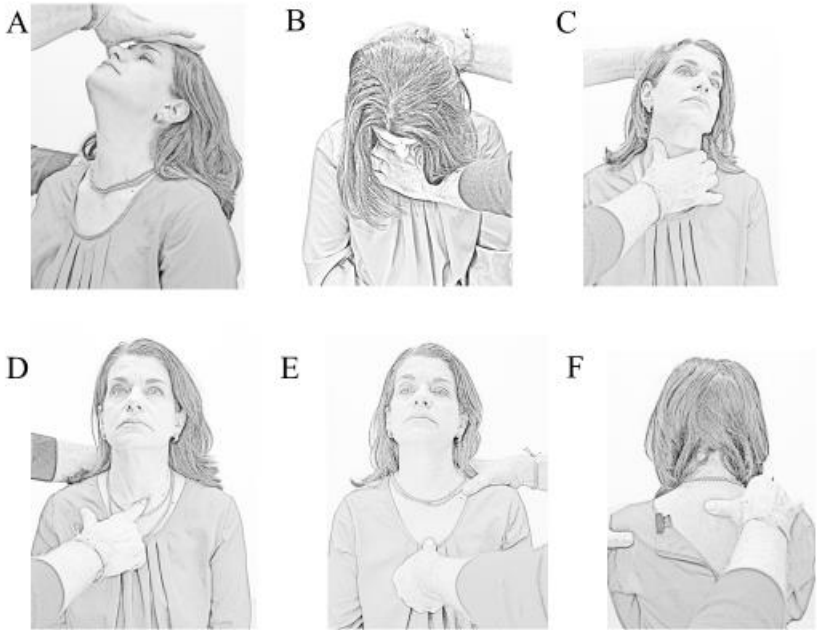


Figure S2.

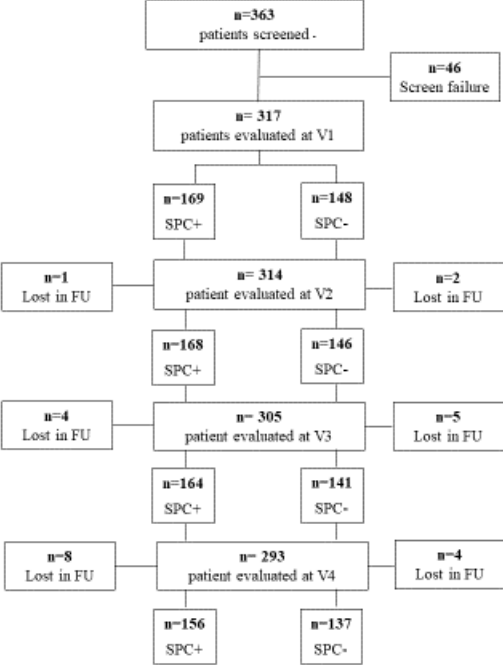


Table S1. Pharmacological treatments received by 317 patients with chronic cough based on reported symptoms suggestive of single or multiple cause(s) of cough.

Drug and dosage	Number of patients
Omeprazole or Pantoprazole or Esomeprazole tablets 10-40 mg od/bid	165
Sodium Alginate+Sodium Carbonet, Aluminium+Magnesium hydroxide suspension 1 bag bid/tid	145
Metoclopramide, Domperidone tablets 1 tablet bid/tid	68
BDP/Formoterol, Budesonide/Formoterol, Fluticasone /Salmeterol pMDIs or DPIs 1-2 puffs bid	75
Prednisone tablets 0.5-1 mg/kg od	15
Cetirizine, Loratidine tablets 1 tablet od	32
Mometasone, Budesonide nasal spray 1-2 puffs per nostril od/bid	64
Gabapentin tablets 100-1800 mg daily	5
Dihydrocodeine oral drops 15 mg daily	1
Levodropropizine oral drops 60 mg daily	1

od, once daily; bid, bis in die; tid, ter in die; PND, postnasal drip BDP, Beclomethasone Dipropionate; pMDIs, pressurized metered-dose inhalers; DPIs, dry powder inhalers.