

**Wheels:** Kathy of Beavercreek writes, “I have a 2002 PT Cruiser that surges when it gets to just over 60 MPH. It feels like a hiccup, in that it races slightly forward and then feels like it’ll give out, but doesn’t. It isn’t a shifting issue. I have had the spark plugs replaced and the tires rotated to make sure the ride is smooth. No one can figure it out. I’ve had the car looked at five times now.”

**Halderman:** Because the situation occurs at the same speed all of the time, then I think it may be transmission related. Depending on the throttle position and the grade of the road, the torque converter clutch may be engaging at this speed. To quickly verify or eliminate this component as a cause, simply depress the brake pedal lightly when driving at that speed to prevent the application of the torque converter clutch. If the problem does not occur, then the vehicle computer may need to be reflashed to change the speed that the torque converter clutch engages or the torque converter needs to be replaced. If this test does not stop the problem, then other possibilities that I located on the International Automotive Technician’s Network ([www.iatn.net](http://www.iatn.net)) include a poor ground connection for the oxygen sensor or carbon on the valves.

