RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP) ASSESSMENT DECISION TREE

Was the patient bitten or was there saliva contact from the animal to an open wound or mucous membrane of the patient?

NO → **Rabies PEP NOT advised.** *Exception for Bats**

YES, What kind of animal?

- **Small rodent: squirrel, hamster, guinea pig, gerbil, chipmunk, rat, mouse**
- **Lagomorph: rabbit, hare**
- **Opossum**

→ **Rabies PEP NOT advised.**

Dog, cat, or domestic ferret

→ **Is animal's location known?**

- **YES** → Consult with AR State Public Health Veterinarian at (501) 280-4136 or physician on call (800) 633-1735.
- **NO** → **Rabies PEP NOT advised.** Contact local animal control or local health department. PEP should not be initiated unless animal develops rabies during 10 day observation period.

Bat, skunk, fox, or other wild carnivore

→ **Is animal's location known?**

- **YES** → Test for rabies. Rabies PEP not indicated pending test results. **Is the test positive?**
  - **YES** → **Administer Rabies PEP!**
  - **NO** → **Rabies PEP NOT indicated.**
- **NO** → Consult with AR State Public Health Veterinarian at (501) 280-4136 or physician on call (800) 633-1735.

- **Farm animal: cow, sheep, pig, horse, goat**
- **Exotic animal: tiger, bear, monkey**

→ **Does animal show signs of rabies?**

- **YES** → Test for rabies. Rabies PEP not indicated pending test results. **Is the test positive?**
  - **YES** → **Administer Rabies PEP!**
  - **NO** → **Rabies PEP NOT indicated.**
- **NO** → **Rabies PEP NOT advised.** Contact local health department. PEP should not be initiated unless animal develops rabies during 30 day observation period.

Arkansas Department of Health

*Bats pose particular risks and rabies transmission has occurred in the absence of a recognized bite. Therefore, every effort should be made to capture and test the bat involved in the exposure incident. If the patient can provide adequate history that no direct exposure occurred, then no treatment is necessary. If the patient is an unobserved child, or a person who was asleep, intoxicated, or mentally challenged, then PEP may be indicated. Consult with Arkansas Department of Health Public Health Veterinarian (501) 280-4136 or physician on call (800) 633-1735

TABLE 1. Currently available rabies biologics -- United States, 2008

Human rabies vaccine	Product name	Manufacturer	Dose	Route	Indications
Human diploid cell vaccine	Imovax® Rabies[1]	Sanofi Pasteur Phone: 800-822-2463 Website: http://www.vaccineplace.com/products/	1 mL	Intramuscular	Pre-exposure or Post-exposure[2]
Purified chick embryo cell vaccine	RabAvert®	Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics Phone: 800-244-7668 Website: http://www.rabavert.com	1 mL	Intramuscular	Pre-exposure or Post-exposure[2]
Rabies Immune globulin	Imogam® Rabies-HT	Sanofi Pasteur Phone: 800-822-2463 Website: http://www.vaccineplace.com/products/	20 IU/kg	Local[3]	Postexposure only
	HyperRab™ S/D	Talecris Blotherapeutics Bayer Biological Products Phone: 800-243-4153 Website: http://www.taecris-pl.info	20 IU/kg	Local[3]	Postexposure only

[1]Imovax Rabies I.D., administered intradermally, is no longer available in the United States.

[2]For **post-exposure** prophylaxis, the vaccine is administered on days 0, 3, 7 and 14 in patients who have not been previously vaccinated and on days 0 and 3 in patients who have been previously vaccinated.
For **pre-exposure** prophylaxis, the vaccine is administered on days 0, 7 and 21 or 28.

[3]As much of the product as is anatomically feasible should be infiltrated into and around the wound. Any remaining product should be administered intramuscularly in the deltoid or quadriceps (at a location other than that used for vaccine inoculation to minimize potential interference).

Table 4. Rabies postexposure prophylaxis schedule -- United States, 2008

Vaccination status	Treatment	Regimen[1]
Not previously vaccinated	Wound cleansing	All post-exposure prophylaxis should begin with immediate thorough cleansing of all wounds with soap and water. If available, a virucidal agent such as povidine-iodine solution should be used to irrigate the wounds.
	Rabies immune globulin (RIG)	Administer 20 IU/kg body weight. If anatomically feasible, the full dose should be infiltrated around the wound(s) and any remaining volume should be administered intramuscularly (IM) at an anatomical site distant from vaccine administration. Also, RIG should not be administered in the same syringe as vaccine. Because RIG might partially suppress active production of antibody, no more than the recommended dose should be given.
	Vaccine	Human diploid cell vaccine (HDCV) or purified chick embryo cell vaccine (PCECV) 1.0 mL, IM (deltoid area[3]), one each on day 0[4], 3, 7 and 14.
Previously vaccinated[2]	Wound cleansing	All post-exposure prophylaxis should begin with immediate thorough cleansing of all wounds with soap and water. If available, a virucidal agent such as povidine-iodine solution should be used to irrigate the wounds.
	RIG	RIG should not be administered.
	Vaccine	HDCV or PCECV 1.0 mL, IM (deltoid area[3]), one each on days 0[4] and 3.

[1]These regimens are applicable for all age groups, including children.

[2]Any person with a history of complete pre-exposure or post-exposure vaccination regimen with HDCV, PCECV, or rabies vaccine absorbed, or previous vaccination with any other type of rabies vaccine and documented history of antibody response of the prior vaccination.

[3]The deltoid area is the only acceptable site of vaccination for adults and older children. For younger children, the outer aspect of the thigh can be used. Vaccine should never be administered in the gluteal area.

[4]Day 0 is the day the first dose of vaccine is administered.