Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for potential exposure to classical rabies virus from a terrestrial animal overseas

Potential exposure from a terrestrial animal in a rabies enzootic area

Category I
- Touching or feeding animals, licks on intact skin
- Exposure to blood, urine, or faeces or to an animal that has been dead for >4 hours

No prophylaxis is required if contact history is reliable

Category II
- Nibbling of uncovered skin, minor scratched or abrasions without bleeding

Category III
- Single or multiple transdermal bites or scratches
- Contamination of mucous membrane with saliva from licks
- Licks on broken skin

Non-immune,‡
immunocompetent

Vaccinate§
4 doses administered IM on days 0, 3, 7 and 14. Human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) is not indicated.

If further exposures in the future
Treat as previously immunised and follow algorithm as above

If ongoing occupational exposure risk - see booster algorithm

Previously immunised†
immunocompetent

Vaccinate§
Both immunocompetent and immunocompromised persons - 2 doses administered IM on days 0 and 3. HRIG is not indicated.

Vaccinate§ and administer HRIG
HRIG is administered only once, and as soon as possible after the initiation of PEP (HRIG is not indicated beyond the 7th day after the 1st vaccine dose on day 0). Rabies vaccination is 4 doses administered IM on days 0, 3, 7 and 14.

Non-immune,‡
immunocompetent

† Previously immunised person with documentation of a completed recommended PreP or PEP rabies vaccine regimen. This is irrespective of the time period since the last dose was administered. This may either be a completed primary pre-exposure course and includes those where subsequent boosting has occurred, or documented rabies antibody (VNAb) titres of ≥0.5 IU/mL.
‡ Non-immune person who has never received pre or post-exposure immunisation with rabies vaccine, has incomplete/inadequate primary vaccination course.
§ Immunocompromised persons, not previously vaccinated should receive 5 doses of vaccine on days 0, 3, 7,14 and 28. Serology should be checked 14-21 days post dose 5 and a further dose offered if the result is <0.5 IU/mL. In immunocompromised persons, HRIG should be administered if a Category II or III exposure.
¶ Immunocompromised persons, previously immunised, should have serological testing 14-21 days after the 2nd dose to confirm acceptable VNAb levels. If the result is <0.5 IU/mL, expert advise should be sought regarding the total number of doses required for PEP.

Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for potential exposure to lyssaviruses from bats in Australia or overseas

Potential exposure from a bat (Australia or overseas)

Category I
- Touching or feeding animals, licks on intact skin
- Exposed to blood, urine, or faeces or to an animal that has been dead for >4 hours

Category II or III
- Nibbling of uncovered skin, any scratches or abrasions with/without bleeding, single or multiple transdermal bites or scratches, contamination of mucous membrane with saliva from licks, or licks on broken skin

Previously immunised\(^*\)

Non-immune,\(^\dagger\) immunocompetent

Vaccinate\(^\S\)

Both immunocompetent and immunocompromised persons - 2 doses administered IM on days 0 and 3. HRIG is not indicated.

Vaccinate\(^\S\) and administer HRIG\(^\S\)

HRIG is administered only once, and as soon as possible after the initiation of PEP (HRIG) is not indicated beyond the 7th day after the 1st vaccine dose on day 0). Rabies vaccination is 4 doses administered IM on days 0, 3, 7 and 14.

Ongoing occupational exposure risk

Perform serology

i) Every 6 months for laboratory staff at risk
ii) Every 2 years for veterinary workers, bat handlers or and other workers who are likely to handle bats

\[ \text{VNA} \text{Ab} < 0.5 \text{ IU/mL} \]
- Give a single booster dose
- If further exposure give PEP as above

\[ \text{VNA} \text{Ab} \geq 0.5 \text{ IU/mL} \]
- No further action until either
  - exposure, then give PEP as above
  - time period elapses as above for serology - undertake VNA\text{Ab} serology

\(^*\) If in doubt, treat as non-immune.
\(^\dagger\) Previously immunised person with documentation of a completed recommended PreP or PEP rabies vaccine regimen. This is irrespective of the time period since the last dose was administered. This may either be a completed primary pre-exposure course and includes those where subsequent boosting has occurred, or documented rabies antibody (VNA\text{Ab}) titres of \(\geq 0.5\) IU/mL.
\(^\S\) Non-immune person who has never received pre or post-exposure immunisation with rabies vaccine, has incomplete/inadequate primary vaccination course.

\(^\S\) Immunocompromised persons, not previously vaccinated should receive 5 doses of vaccine on days 0, 3, 7,14 and 28. Serology should be checked 14-21 days post dose 5 and a further dose offered if the result is <0.5 IU/mL. In immunocompromised persons, HRIG should be administered if a Category II or III exposure.

\(^\S\) Immunocompromised persons, previously immunised, should have serological testing 14-21 days after the 2nd dose to confirm acceptable VNA\text{Ab} levels. If the result is <0.5 IU/mL, expert advise should be sought regarding the total number of doses required for PEP.

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www.nt.gov.au/health

Rabies and ABL PEP