

RABIES

Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)



Always administer post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) if a patient was bitten or otherwise exposed to:

- A rabies-positive animal
- A rabies vector species that is unavailable for testing

Consider PEP if a patient was bitten or otherwise exposed to a dog or cat that is unavailable for observation. Do not start PEP if the patient was bitten by a dog or cat that is healthy and can be observed for 10 days.

Steps for Vaccination	Never Vaccinated The patient has never received a complete regimen of either rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or rabies PEP	Previously Vaccinated The patient has received either rabies PEP for a previous exposure or rabies PrEP.*
1. Clean the wounds. Thoroughly irrigate with soap and water or a dilute water povidone-iodine solution.	Always.	Always.
2. Administer 20 international units per kilogram of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG). Thoroughly infiltrate the area in and around the wounds with a full dose of HRIG, if possible. Otherwise, inject the remaining volume intramuscularly in a site distant from the vaccine.	Yes.	No.
3. Vaccinate. Intramuscular vaccination in the deltoid or, for children, in the deltoid or anterolateral thigh. Vaccination should never be given in the gluteal area.	Yes on days 0, 3, 7 and 14 Patients who are immunocompromised should receive an additional dose on day 28.	Yes on days 0 and 3 only.

*For persons vaccinated with a cell-culture vaccine (after 1985) or who previously had a documented adequate rabies virus-neutralizing antibody titer following vaccination with noncell-culture vaccine (prior to 1985, or possibly international administration.)

Important Do's and Don'ts

DO

- ✓ Infiltrate all wounds with HRIG, unless patient was previously vaccinated.
- ✓ Inject vaccine in deltoid or thigh (in children). Give tetanus booster, if appropriate.
- ✓ Report animal bites to local police, animal control and/or health department.

DON'T

- × Give HRIG to a previous recipient of PEP or PrEP.
- × Inject HRIG vaccine at the same site.
- × Give more than recommended dose of HRIG.
- × Inject vaccine in gluteal area.
- × Give HRIG in the same syringe as vaccine.

For help with assessing the risk of rabies from an animal bite, the Arkansas Department of Health is always available. **During normal business hours call the State Public Health Veterinarian at (501) 280-4136. After normal business hours call (800) 633-1735.**

