



HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT

Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

The recent mountain lion attack in Orange County is a reminder to health care providers that the risk of rabies needs to be considered in certain animal exposures. Please share this information with everyone at your facility who might be called upon to give rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Please call Epidemiology and Assessment at (714) 834-8180 for assistance in assessing the risk of rabies and indications for rabies PEP. All animal bites should be reported to Animal Care at (714) 935-7419.

Giving Rabies PEP

Because most physicians and nurses are not familiar with rabies PEP, it is crucial to review the following information prior to providing treatment. The three components that are critical to rabies PEP are as follows:

1. Immediate and thorough washing of the wound with soap and warm water and irrigation with a virucidal solution such as povidone-iodine solution.

2. Administration of Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG)

HRIG is not indicated if the patient has had pre-exposure prophylaxis or previous rabies PEP treatment with currently licensed products. HRIG is given only once at the beginning of treatment. **As much of the HRIG as possible should be infiltrated into and around the site of the wound(s).** Any remaining HRIG should be injected IM into the gluteus muscle. If there is not a visible wound present, and there is no history of a percutaneous exposure, give the HRIG as IM injection(s) into the gluteus muscle. Although it is preferable to give HRIG at the time of the first dose of vaccine, it can be given up to 7 days after starting the vaccine series. The dose is 20 IU/kg. It is supplied in a concentration of 150 IU/ml. To determine the dose, complete the following calculations:

$$(\text{Patient's weight in kg}) \times 0.133 = \text{dose of HRIG in ml}$$

OR

$$(\text{Patient's weight in pounds}) \times 0.06 = \text{dose of HRIG in ml}$$

Example: A 150-pound person would require a dose of 9.1 ml.

There are two licensed products available:

1. BayRab™, Bayer Corporation, (800) 288-8370
2. Imogam® Rabies-HT, Aventis Pasteur, (800) 822-2463

3. Administration of Human Rabies Vaccine Series

The PEP vaccine series consists of five 1.0-ml doses of vaccine given on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28. Give all doses of rabies vaccine IM in the lateral deltoid in adults and in the anterolateral aspect of the thigh for young children. **Do NOT give vaccine in the gluteus muscle.**

If the patient had pre-exposure prophylaxis or previous rabies PEP treatment with currently licensed products, then only two doses of vaccine are given for PEP on days 0 and 3.

There are two rabies vaccines licensed for use and currently available in the United States:

1. Human Diploid Cell Vaccine (HDCV), trade name Imovax®, distributed by Aventis Pasteur Inc. (800) 822-2463
2. Purified Chick embryo Cell Culture (PCEC), trade name RabAvert™, distributed by Chiron Vaccines, (800) 244-7668 x 5812.