

Rabies Prophylaxis Guidelines

Pt and family members are often referred into HCH ED by the RI DOH for post exposure treatment. This guideline will help summarize suggestions and frequently asked questions.

Treatment Suggestions

Location: The **Transition Unit** is a great place to treat these families assuming there is more than a single patient, which is often the case. Drawing up the meds and administering them takes time, so this location is better than the RTU.

Orders: (place these orders ASAP to expedite the visit)

- Vaccine: **rabies vaccine, PCEC (RABAVERT) injection**
 - This is a single 1ml IM injections given on Day 0, 3,7,14
- Immune Globulin: **rabies Immune globulin (IMOGAM) injection**
 - This is wt. based, 20 units/kg with no specified upper limit.
 - Given on Day 0. ½ of volume around wound and ½ as IM injection distant from where vaccine administered

What to Tell Families

- Rationale behind treatment: Rabies is 100% fatal if contracted.
- There have been cases with no reported bite but a bat in the house while asleep and individuals contracting rabies.

Side Effects

RabAvert

- Local reaction (soreness)
- Rare allergic reaction

Immune Globulin

- Local reaction (soreness, stiffness),
- Low-grade fever
- Headache
- Rare allergic reaction

Follow-up

Discharge Instruction:

- Rabies Follow Up TMH/RIHER
(This will provide the phone number and schedule for follow up on days 3, 7, 14)

Referral:

- Ambulatory Referral to Rabies (RIH/HCH)
- To Department:
 - select HCH Rabies PEDI

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does the vaccine last?

Not clearly stated. People at high risk (lab workers, vets, etc.) get serology testing every two years and boosters if antibody titer decreases below acceptable level.

The recommendation is to have a repeat vaccine if there is another exposure, but the person would not need repeat Immune globulin.

Should we apply L-MAX?

The nursing consensus is that L-MAX is not a great idea, delays care and does not really reduce discomfort from the IM injections.