

WORLD RABIES DAY

28 September 2012



Awareness is the best
defense against Rabies.

“Together we can make
Rabies History!”

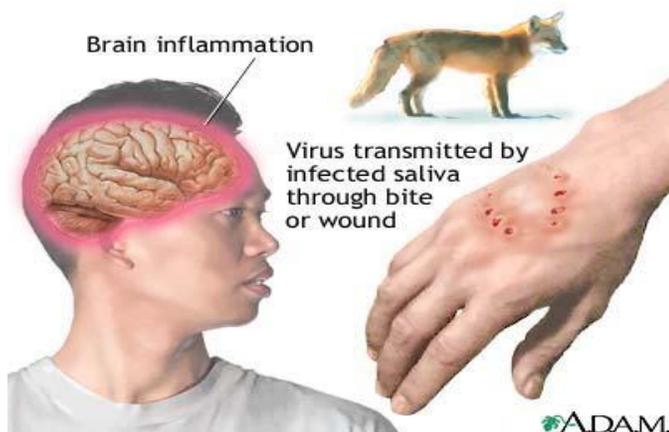
WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT RABIES

1. Rabies: A neglected disease

Rabies is a zoonotic disease (a disease that is transmitted to humans from animals) that is caused by a virus. The disease infects domestic and wild animals, and is spread to people through close contact with infected saliva via bites or scratches.

2. Key facts

According to the World Health Organization, about 55 000 deaths from rabies are estimated to occur every year, 99% of which are the consequence of dog bites. More than 95% of human deaths occur in Asia and Africa. It is an unfortunate fact that a large percentage of these deaths occurs in children. More than 100 children die from rabies worldwide every day.



3. Incubation period

The incubation period for rabies is typically 1-3 months.

4. Symptoms

- **Initial symptoms:**
 - Fever
 - Pain or unusual unexplained tingling, pricking or burning sensation (paraesthesia) at the wound site.
- As the virus spreads through the central nervous system, progressive, fatal inflammation of the brain and spinal cord develops.
- Two forms of the disease can follow:



Furious rabies during which people infected by the virus exhibit signs of hyperactivity, excited behavior, hydrophobia and sometimes aerophobia. After a few days, death occurs by cardio-respiratory arrest.



Paralytic rabies accounts for about 30% of the total number of human cases. This form of rabies is less dramatic than the furious form. The muscles gradually become paralyzed, starting at the site of the bite or scratch. A coma slowly develops, and eventually death occurs.



5. Diagnosis

No tests are available to diagnose rabies infection in humans before the onset of clinical disease. Post mortem, the standard diagnostic technique is to detect rabies virus antigen in brain tissue by fluorescent antibody test.

6. Treatment

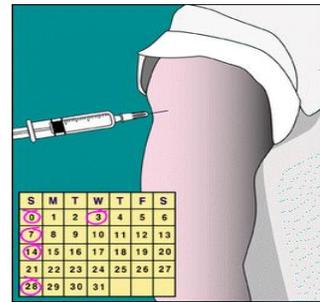
- **Local treatment of the wound**

Recommended first-aid procedures include immediate and thorough flushing and washing of the wound for a minimum of 15 minutes with soap and water, detergent or povidone iodine.



- **Immediate vaccination and Administration of Rabies immunoglobulin**

Rabies vaccines are mostly used for Post Exposure Prophylactic (PEP) after bites from suspect rabid animals, as the time the virus takes to travel to the brain can be up to 2 months, which allows the immune system to mount an immune barrier in response to PEP before symptoms occur. The recommended schedule for PEP is five doses at 0, 3, 7, 14 and 28 days, often coupled to passive immunization with rabies immunoglobulins (RIGs).



7. Prevention

- Preventive immunization is recommended for certain professional groups such as veterinarians and for travelers to rabies-endemic countries.
- Rabies is fatal in humans. Any animal bite should be taken seriously!!
- The most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in people is by eliminating rabies in dogs through vaccination. Most importantly, protecting your pets in this way also protects you and your family.
- If an animal bites you, wash the wound with soap or antiseptic solution and call our hotlines immediately because all cases of suspected exposure to rabies should be treated as soon as possible to prevent the onset of symptoms and death.



- In our clinic we maintain a healthy stock of Rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin if it is recommended by the doctor.