

Problems

Bites and scratches from potential rabies infected animals.

Action

1. Obtain the following information:
 - A. Name, address, and telephone number of patient(s).
 - B. Name, address, and telephone number of reporting party.
 - C. Type of animal involved:

High Risk - bat, coyote, fox, bobcat, skunk, raccoon
Low Risk - dog, cat, horse, cow
Very Low Risk - rabbit, ground squirrel, rat, mouse
 - D. Type of exposure - bite or scratch? Location of injury on body?
 - E. Circumstances of exposure - describe what patient and animal were doing prior to the bite or scratch.
 - F. Has Animal Care and Control been alerted? If not, duty officer is to immediately report incident to Animal Care and Control.

2. If bitten by a high risk animal, refer patient(s) for immediate medical evaluation. Treatment consists of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and human diploid cell vaccine (HDCV).
 - a. HRIG is a passive antibody which is administered IM at the initiation of treatment. Infiltrate wound with up to half of HRIG.

Dose is weight related:
$$\frac{\text{Wt. (lbs) of patient} \times 9 \text{ IU}}{150 \text{ IU/MI HRIG}} = \text{Millimeters of HRIG to administer}$$
 - b. HDCV is an active vaccine which is administered IM on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28 of treatment. Each dose is 1 ml and is packaged separately.

Disease Control maintains supplies of HRIG and HDCV. It is also available at Riverside General Hospital Pharmacy.

3. If patient complains of severe injuries, advise patient to seek medical attention. For less severe injuries, advise patient to wash wound(s) vigorously with soap and water.

4. If tetanus immunization is not current (within last five years) refer for medical evaluation regardless of animal involved.
5. Laboratory examinations: All high risk animals with a human bite or scratch should be destroyed and the head examined for rabies as soon as practicable.
6. In the event that you require additional assistance contact the Second Call Duty Officer.
7. Forward the Human Rabies Case Report to Disease Control on the next working day.
8. Refer to the California Compendium of Rabies Control and Prevention, 2003

Reporting Form: [Human Rabies Case Report \(DHS 8526\)](#)
[California Compendium of Rabies Control and Prevention, 2004](#)