



# Post-Exposure Rabies Treatment

## 1) Treatment of Wounds

Immediate and thorough washing of all bite wounds with soap and water as well as virucidal agent irrigation are important measures for preventing rabies. Tetanus prophylaxis and measures to control bacterial infection should also be administered as indicated.

## 2) Immunization: Patient not previously vaccinated against rabies

**a) Rabies Vaccine:**  
1 mL IM - [HDCV, PCEC]\*  
Days 0, 3, 7, & 14

**b) Rabies Immune Globulin:**  
20 IU/kg body weight  
Day 0

	Day				
	0	3	7	14	28
<b>RIG</b>	Yes	No	No	No	No
<b>Rabies Vaccine</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

If RIG was not administered when vaccination was begun on day 0, it can be administered up to and including day 7 of the PEP series. If anatomically feasible, the full dose of RIG is infiltrated around and into any wounds. Any remaining volume is injected intramuscularly at a site distant from vaccine administration. HRIG is not administered in the same syringe or at the same anatomic site as the first vaccine dose. For persons with immunosuppression (consult package insert), a fifth dose of vaccine should be administered on day 28. The deltoid area is the only acceptable site of vaccine administration for adults and older children. For younger children, the outer aspect of the thigh may be used. Vaccine should never be administered in the gluteal area.

## 2) Immunization: Patient previously vaccinated against rabies\*\*

**a) Rabies Vaccine:**  
1 mL IM - [HDCV, PCEC]\*  
days 0 & 3 only

**b) Rabies Immune Globulin:**  
not indicated

	Day				
	0	3	7	14	28
<b>RIG</b>	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Rabies Vaccine</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

\* **HDCV** = Human Diploid Cell Vaccine (Imovax); **PCEC** = Purified Chick Embryo Cell Vaccine (RabAvert)

\*\* Previously vaccinated persons are those who have received one of the ACIP-recommended pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis regimens or those who received another vaccine regimen and had a documented adequate rabies virus-neutralizing antibody response.

Source: Use of a Reduced (4-Dose) Vaccine Schedule for Postexposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Human Rabies. Recommendations of the ACIP. MMWR Recommendations and Reports March 19, 2010/ 59 (rr02); 1-9

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