UK Health Security Agency

Rabies and Immunoglobulin Service (RIgS)

How to contact us

By telephone on 0330 128 1020

RIgS provides advice for healthcare professionals who are treating a patient that they think might have been exposed to rabies. RIgS will support the risk assessment process and arrange for the required products to be delivered to the clinical area that is treating the patient.

We cannot speak directly to members of the public or give advice about patients that are outside of England.



Routine exposures

7/7 service. 9:30am-5pm

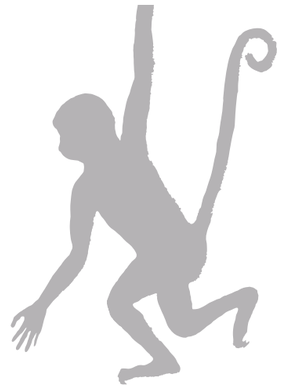
Contact us as soon as possible to complete the risk assessment and determine follow up treatment. If a patient with a routine exposure presents overnight who requires post-exposure treatment that has not yet been started, or the next dose of vaccine is due, please give a dose of vaccine and call us the next morning.

Emergency service

24/7 service

Please contact us immediately for untreated exposures to the **head or neck** (except those from UK bats) or exposures from any animal that has been **confirmed to be rabid**.

Information for healthcare professionals:



Information required for rabies post-exposure risk assessments

Exposure details

- **when** did the exposure occur?
- which **country** did the exposure occur in?
- what **species of animal** was involved?
- **what** was the exposure? What **body part** was affected?
- is a wound still **visible** now?
- what were the **circumstances** of the exposure? Is the **current** health status of the animal known?



Patient details

- **demographics** (name, date of birth, NHS number, address)
- some patients may require an **up-to-date weight**

Does the patient have any:

- **immunosuppression** (provide underlying cause and dosage and frequency of regular medications)
- **clotting disorders** or take any **blood thinning medication**?
- **allergies**

Has the patient ever been:

- **immunised** against rabies? (provide details)
- **treated** for a previous rabies exposure? (provide details)

Treatment already given for this exposure

If applicable please provide the following details about any treatment given to prevent rabies following this exposure, especially if this treatment was given overseas:

- **dates** of administration
- **brand names**
- **site and route** of administration



All mammals can carry rabies. Rabies post-exposure treatment should be considered for patients who have been exposed to a bat in any country (including the UK) or to other mammals overseas. Country risks are available at **www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-risks-by-country/rabies-risks-in-terrestrial-animals-by-country**.

Potential types of exposure include bites and scratches (regardless of whether skin was broken or not), saliva contact with mucous membranes, or licks to broken skin.

Management guidelines:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-post-exposure-prophylaxis-management-guidelines

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