Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis Guide

Was patient exposed to one of the following HIGH RISK animals: Bat, Skunk, Fox, Raccoon, Coyote? There is no quarantine for these animals. They are euthanized and tested.

Did exposure include:
- Bite wound/broken skin
- Saliva in open wound
- Handling of animal brain tissue or cerebrospinal fluid?

Was the animal captured or is it in captivity?

Conduct the following steps
1. Contact Animal Care Services (see below)
2. Rabies prophylaxis not initially indicated.

Does animal show signs of rabies within the 10 day observation period?

Test animal for rabies. No prophylaxis needed pending test results. Did animal test positive for rabies?

Begin Rabies Treatment
Day 0 - Administer HRIG and Rabies Vaccine
Additional doses of vaccine must be administered on days 3, 7, and 14.

If bite victim has received previous rabies treatment, then two boosters of vaccine are given three days apart.

For non-typical domestic animals, cattle, horses, etc, the observation period is thirty days.

The risk for rabies resulting from an encounter with a bat might be difficult to determine because of the limited injury inflicted by a bat bite. For this reason, any direct contact between a human and a bat should be evaluated for an exposure, and rabies PEP should be considered even in the absence of an obvious bite wound in certain circumstances.

See CDC/ACIP recommendations.

NOTE: Wound Care—All bites and wounds should be thoroughly cleaned and the patient should be evaluated to determine further requirement for antibiotics or tetanus booster. If rabies treatment is initiated in the ER, please refer the client for immediate follow-up to the PCP.

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES (210) 207-6667/6668    FAX: 210-207-6678

State law requires all animal bites to be reported to Animal Care Services within 24 hours of bite.