

Rabies

What is Rabies?

Rabies is a virus infection spread through the saliva of infected mammals.

It causes inflammation of the brain and is nearly always fatal without appropriate treatment before symptoms develop.

Vaccination is recommended for:

- People staying for a month or more in areas where rabies is present, and sometimes if travelling for shorter periods; especially in remote areas, where they might not be able to get to medical facilities within 24 hours
- Children who will reside in rabies affected areas
- People who work abroad where rabies is present and who by the nature of their work are at special risk of contact with rabid animals e.g. vets or other animal handlers. Also quarantine kennel workers and bat handlers
- Health workers who are likely to come into close contact with someone affected with rabies

Vaccine Schedule:

Adults and children

3 doses in total on day 0, 7 and 21 or 28

Pre-exposure rabies vaccine does not give 100% protection

To determine whether you require a booster doses of rabies vaccine, please ask your travel health advisor.

What should I do if I get bitten, scratched or licked?

If you are bitten, scratched or licked over broken skin or on the face by a mammal, you should:

- Immediately wash the area for 5 minutes using water with disinfectants such as 40-70% alcohol, tincture or aqueous solution of povidone-iodine.
- Gather as much information about the animal as possible
- Seek medical attention as soon as possible as **you will require further vaccination, even if you have had a complete course of vaccine prior to travelling.**
- If the wound requires stitching this should be delayed until post-exposure treatment has started.

Leaflet Name: Rabies
Leaflet Lead Name: L Ford
Date Leaflet First Developed: Nov 06

Date this version approved: 14.06.11
Review Date: June 2012
Version No. V4

Page 1 of 1