



Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg) and Rabies Vaccine

Quick Reference Guide to Administration

Rabies post exposure prophylaxis (RPEP) of *previously unimmunized individuals* must consist of both rabies immune globulin (Rablg) and rabies vaccine. ***Please read both sides of this document.***

IMPORTANT

Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg)

- **DO NOT** administer the rabies *vaccine* in the same anatomical site as the Rablg.
- **NEVER** use the same syringe for both Rablg and rabies vaccine.

Rabies Vaccine

- **NEVER** give rabies vaccine in the gluteal region.
- **DO NOT** administer rabies vaccine in the same anatomical site as the Rablg.
- **NEVER** use the same syringe for both rabies vaccine and Rablg.

DOSAGE

Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg)

The recommended dose of Rablg is 20 IU/kg body weight for all age groups, including children. HyperRAB® S/D human Rablg is supplied in 1 mL vials (300 IU/mL). Imogam and KamRAB are supplied in 2 mL vials (150 IU/mL).

Please confirm patient weight (wt.). Calculate the dose of Rablg in mL:

For 1 mL vials containing 300 IU/mL Rablg:

$20 \text{ IU/kg} \times (\text{client wt in kg}) \div 300 \text{ IU/mL} = \text{dose in mL}$ (dose in mL $\div$ 1 mL/vial = # of vials to order)

Example: A 70 kg adult would require 4.67 mL of Rablg

For 2 mL vials containing 150 IU/mL Rablg:

$20 \text{ IU/kg} \times (\text{client wt in kg}) \div 150 \text{ IU/mL} = \text{dose in mL}$ (dose in mL $\div$ 2 mL/vial = # of vials to order)

Example: A 70 kg adult would require 9.33 mL of Rablg

Ensure the total calculated dosage is administered *but do not exceed*. There may be some Rablg remaining in one of the vials after administration with the remainder of the Rablg being discarded.

REMINDER: Unless not possible, reserve a limb free of Rablg, in which to give the rabies vaccine.

Rabies Vaccine

Doses of rabies vaccine are provided according to Table 1 on page 2.

Each vial contains 1 mL of vaccine to be administered in its **entirety** each scheduled day. The full vial should be administered – there should **NOT** be any leftover vaccine after each dose.

ADMINISTRATION

Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg)

Rablg is administered into the wound(s) ideally the same day (day 0) of the exposure, thereby providing immediate protective antibodies to where they are most effective. Wash, flush, and disinfect all wounds first.

- ☐ Administer Rablg into the wound(s) (or site of exposure if a wound is not evident) and surrounding edges. This applies whether the wound is fresh or old.
- ☐ For multiple wound sites, divide the Rablg into separate syringes and needles for each site.
- ☐ If possible, the FULL dose of Rablg should be infiltrated into the wound(s) and surrounding area (as per above dosage).
- ☐ If the calculated volume of the dose of Rablg is insufficient to infiltrate all wounds, the Rablg (specifically, HyperRAB and Imogam) can be diluted according to manufacturer's instructions in order to provide the full amount of Rablg required for thorough infiltration of all wounds.
- ☐ Certain anatomical sites must be infiltrated carefully (such as fingers) to avoid increased pressures in the

tissue compartment.

- ☐ If the entire calculated dose of Rablg cannot be anatomically infiltrated around the wound or site of exposure, give the remainder of the dose IM (you can use the wounded limb), but **reserve a limb free of Rablg, in which to give rabies vaccine.**
- ☐ If the site of the wound is unknown (e.g., some bat exposures or healed wounds), the entire dose should be administered intramuscularly. **Reserve a limb free of Rablg, in which to give rabies vaccine.**

Rabies Vaccine

- ☐ **DO NOT** administer the rabies vaccine in the same anatomical site as the Rablg.
- ☐ Administer vaccine intramuscularly in the deltoid or anterolateral thigh, **distant** to the site of Rablg administration, preferably in a different limb.
- ☐ **NEVER** give the vaccine in the gluteal region.
- ☐ For infants and small children, the anterolateral thigh is preferred.

SCHEDULE

Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg)

- Rablg is ideally given on day zero (0) when rabies vaccine is given.
- Rablg is not recommended if more than 7 days have elapsed after the first dose of *rabies vaccine* as it may interfere with antibody production.
- Exceeding the calculated recommended dose of Rablg may interfere with antibody production.
- Rablg is supplied in 1 mL or 2 mL vials. OPH will provide the appropriate number of vials according to the dosage calculation on page 1 based on a subjectively reported weight. *Please confirm the patient's weight.*

Rabies Vaccine

Start RPEP as soon as possible after the exposure has been assessed. Administer the recommended doses as per the table below. Adhere to the schedule to achieve the most rapid protection possible. Advise all patients of the importance of follow-up for additional vaccine doses at the correct time intervals. A dose given *before* the minimum interval has elapsed will not count and will have to be repeated. *Late* doses mean delayed protection and the timing of subsequent doses must be adjusted to respect the minimum intervals.

Table 1. RPEP rabies vaccine schedule

Dose Number	Minimum interval from previous dose	Vaccine Dose
#1 (Day 0)	N/A	1.0 mL
#2 (Day 3)	3 days	1.0 mL
#3 (Day 7)	4 days	1.0 mL
#4 (Day 14)	7 days	1.0 mL
Persons immunocompromised, taking chloroquine or other antimalarials, or having deviated from the above schedule may require a 5 th dose. Antibody titres may be recommended to determine if a 5 th dose is necessary.		
#5 (Day 28)	14 days	1.0 mL

DOCUMENTATION: Keep accurate records of Rablg and vaccine administration by recording product name, date and time of administration, dose, site(s) of administration, route(s), lot number(s), and expiry date(s).

More information:

- Visit the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) and find “Rabies Vaccine” in “Part 4 – Active Vaccines” and see “Part 5 – Passive Immunization”
- Review “[Management of Potential Rabies Exposures Guideline](#)” from Ontario Health
- Search “rabies” at www.ottawapublichealth.ca or www.publichealthontario.ca

Call Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744 (Mon. to Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or 311 after hours, weekends, and statutory holidays.

May 2024