



Questions on Immunization and Vaccination and Short Answers

Başıklama ve Aşı ile İlgili Sorular ve Kısa Cevaplar

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Rabies Questions

Question 1: A person who was exposed to rabies risk contact in the form of a superficial scratch on the hand while feeding a cat that approached them while sitting in the park was assessed as Category 2 during an examination at a healthcare facility and was placed on a four dose rabies vaccination schedule. While the rabies vaccination is ongoing, and on the 9th day, the person is bitten on the finger by another cat, what should the prophylactic approach be?

Answer 1: Vaccination continues according to the established schedule; no new prophylactic approach is implemented.

Since the first rabies exposure was categorized as Category 2, rabies immunoglobulin is not administered to this person. The recommended basic post-exposure schedule is: One dose on days 0, 3, and 7 and a fourth dose between 14-28 days (four doses total) as recommended by the Turkish Ministry of Health Rabies Prophylaxis Guide, and vaccination is initiated (Figure 1). Although the bite on the finger on the ninth day, which broke the skin integrity, is actually Category 3 and requires rabies immunoglobulin administration, it is not recommended to suppress the antibody response because vaccination started earlier than seven days and the ra-

bies antibody response has already begun to develop (Figure 2). Vaccination continues as is and is completed.

Question 2: A person who sought medical attention at a healthcare facility after being bitten multiple times on the leg by a stray, unvaccinated, and unobserved street dog, resulting in skin lacerations, was classified as Category 3. This person received four doses of rabies vaccine and rabies anti-serum appropriate for their weight. Two months after the last dose of vaccine was administered, the person was bitten on the finger by a stray, unvaccinated, and unobserved cat. What approach should be taken when exposed to rabies risk in this manner?

Answer 2: A new rabies vaccination is not required. Prophylaxis is not necessary for individuals who have received a full course of post-exposure prophylaxis within the last six months. However, it is important to note that prophylaxis is administered regardless of the time elapsed in cases of facial injuries and in immunocompromised individuals.

Question 3: If a person bitten in the facial area, which has dense nerve tissue, by an owned, observed, and unvaccinated dog dies on the fifth day of observation while the person is still receiving rabies vaccinations, what course of action should be followed?

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Category	Exposure Type	Status of the Animal	Recommended Approach		
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petting or feeding the animal • Licking of the healthy skin 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action is required 		
II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight abrasion of bare skin (superficial injuries) • Minor scratches or abrasions without bleeding 	A. If the domestic animal that came into contact with the person has been vaccinated against rabies within the last year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wound care • Evaluation for tetanus prophylaxis • The animal is observed for 10 days¹ 		
		B. If the domestic animal that came into contact with the person has not been vaccinated against rabies within the last year or vaccination status is unknown	When and if the animal is healthy and can be observed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wound care • Evaluation for tetanus prophylaxis • The animal is observed for 10 days¹ 	
			When the animal cannot be observed	Minor scratch from a cat without bleeding, caused by provocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wound care • Evaluation for tetanus prophylaxis
				Other exposures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wound care • Evaluation for tetanus prophylaxis • Vaccination begins immediately (one dose on days 0, 3, and 7 + a fourth dose between 14-28 days (four doses total or 2.1.1. scheme on days 0, 7, and 21)
III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single or multiple bites and scratches that damage the skin • Exposure of the mucosa and open wounds with animal saliva • The lesion is located in areas where nerve endings are concentrated, such as the head, neck, and fingertips 	A. If the domestic animal that came into contact with the person has been vaccinated against rabies within the last year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wound care • Evaluation for tetanus prophylaxis • The animal is observed for 10 days without vaccination² 		
		B. If the domestic animal that came into contact with the person has not been vaccinated against rabies within the last year or vaccination status is unknown	When and if the animal is healthy and can be observed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wound care • Evaluation for tetanus prophylaxis • Vaccination begins immediately³ (one dose on days 0, 3, and 7 + a fourth dose between 14-28 days (four doses total) • The animal is followed for 10 days³ • Immunoglobulin⁴ 	
			If the animal cannot be observed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wound care • Evaluation for tetanus prophylaxis • Vaccination begins immediately³ (one dose on days 0, 3, and 7 + a fourth dose between 14-28 days (four doses total) • The animal is followed for 10 days³ • Immunoglobulin is administered with the first dose of vaccine⁵
IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risky exposure to wild animals at risk of contracting rabies 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wound care • Evaluation for tetanus prophylaxis • Vaccination begins immediately³ (one dose on days 0, 3, and 7 + a fourth dose between 14-28 days (four doses total) • Immunoglobulin is administered with the first dose of vaccine⁵ 		

Figure 1. Rabies prophylaxis in high-risk exposures.

¹ In the event of the death of any cause, escape or disappearance of the animal including signs of disease, post-exposure vaccine prophylaxis is performed (four doses of vaccine or the 2.1.1. scheme, immunoglobulin is not required).

² In the event of sudden death of the animal or animal showing signs of disease, immunoglobulin is started with vaccination (one dose on days 0, 3, and seven + a fourth dose between 14-28 days (four doses total)).

³ Vaccination is stopped after 10 days of observation for cats and dogs.

⁴ In the event of the animal showing signs of disease during the observation period and in the event of the death of any cause, escape and disappearance of the animal, immunoglobulin is administered within seven days the latest after the first dose of the vaccine. If the duration is longer than seven days, the vaccine is administered at four doses.

⁵ If immunoglobulin cannot be found immediately, it should be administered within seven days the latest.

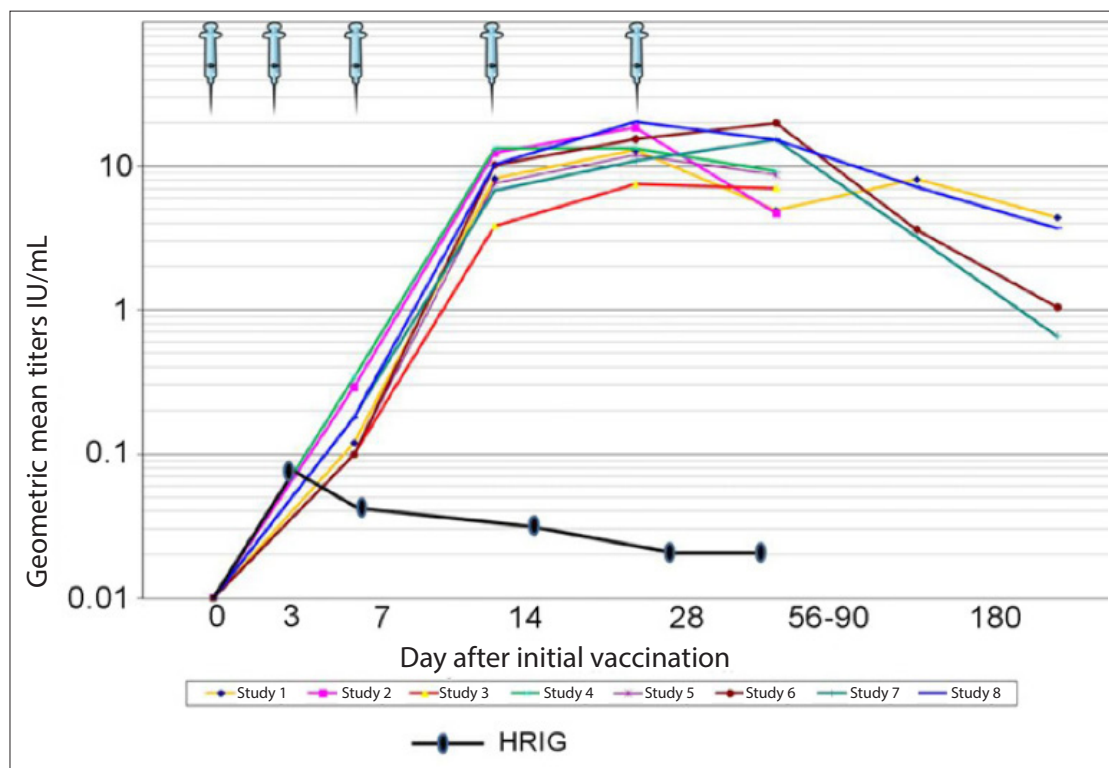


Figure 2. Antibody response after rabies-risk exposure.

Answer 3: If the animal dies within seven days of the first dose of vaccine (10 days of observation is recommended for cats and dogs. Such a period cannot be given for animals other than cats and dogs, and observation is not recommended) the person should also be given rabies immunoglobulin and the rabies vaccination schedule should be continued.

When a dog dies, the district Agriculture and Forestry Directorate should be notified. The district Agriculture and Forestry Directorate veterinarians send the animal's head to the nearest Veterinary Control and Research Institute belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to be examined for rabies under cold chain conditions (Figure 3). The rest of the animal is buried in a deep pit with lime (Figure 4).

Name of the Institute	Fax No.	Phone No.	E-mail Address
*Vet. Kont. Merkez Araştırma Enst. Ankara	0312 321 17 55	0312 326 00 90	etlik.vkmae@tarimorman.gov.tr
Bornova Vet. Kont. Enst. Enstitüsü İzmir	0232 388 50 52	0232 388 00 10	bornova.vke@tarimorman.gov.tr
Samsun Vet. Kont. Enst. Samsun	0362 437 03 99	0362 437 08 36	samsun.vke@tarimorman.gov.tr
Elazığ Vet. Kont. Enst. Elazığ	0424 233 87 20	0424 218 18 34	elazig.vke@tarimorman.gov.tr
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Pendik Vet. Kont. Enst. İstanbul	0216 354 76 92	0216 390 1280	pendik.vke@tarimorman.gov.tr
Adana Vet. Kont. Enst. Adana	0322 239 04 95	0322 239 04 90	adana.vke@tarimorman.gov.tr
Konya Vet. Kont. Enst. Konya	0332 320 37 98	0332 322 47 41	konya.vke@tarimorman.gov.tr

Figure 3. Animal rabies diagnosis centers.

*Human rabies cases are also diagnosed.

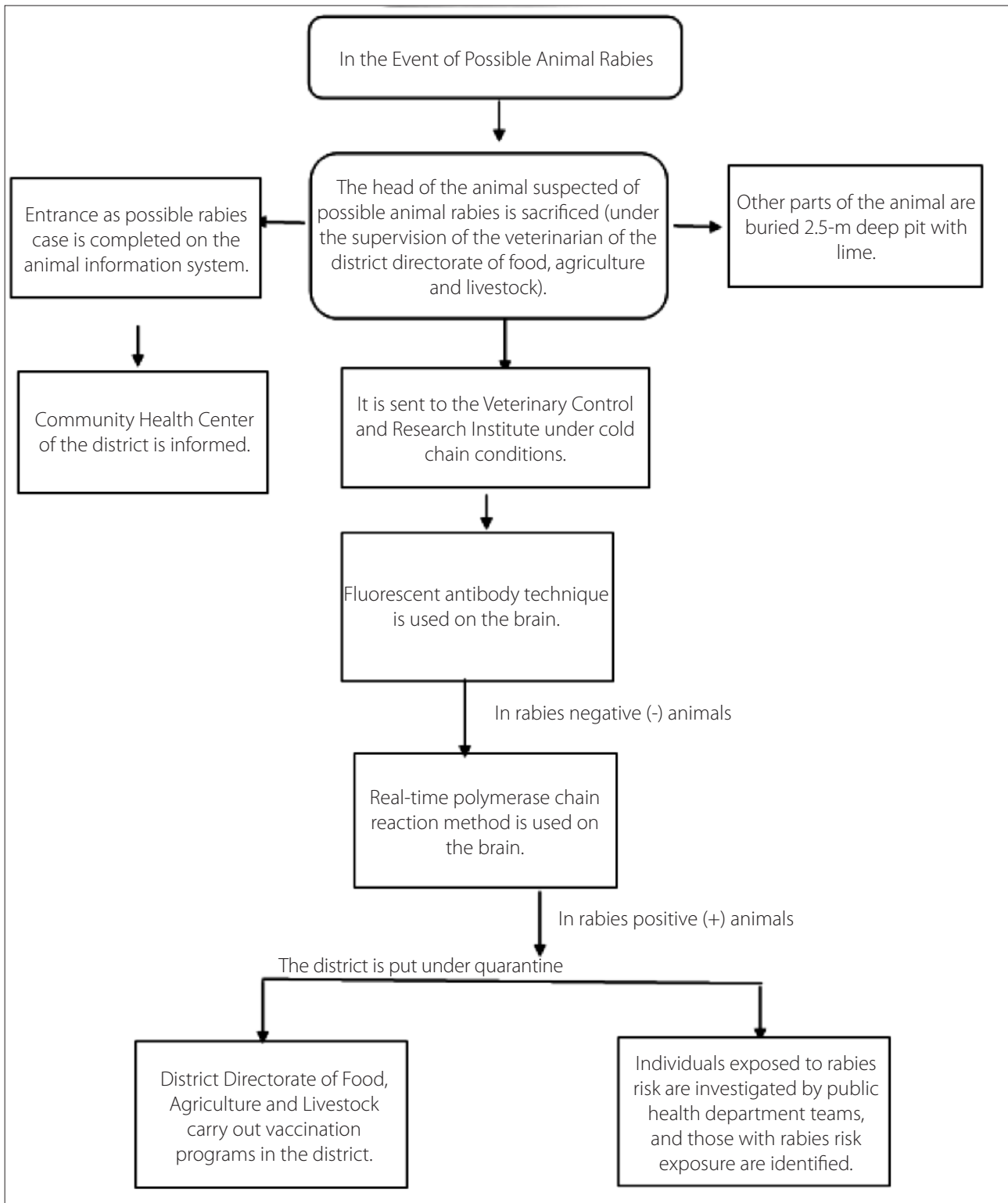


Figure 4. Procedure to follow in case of rabies suspicion in animals.