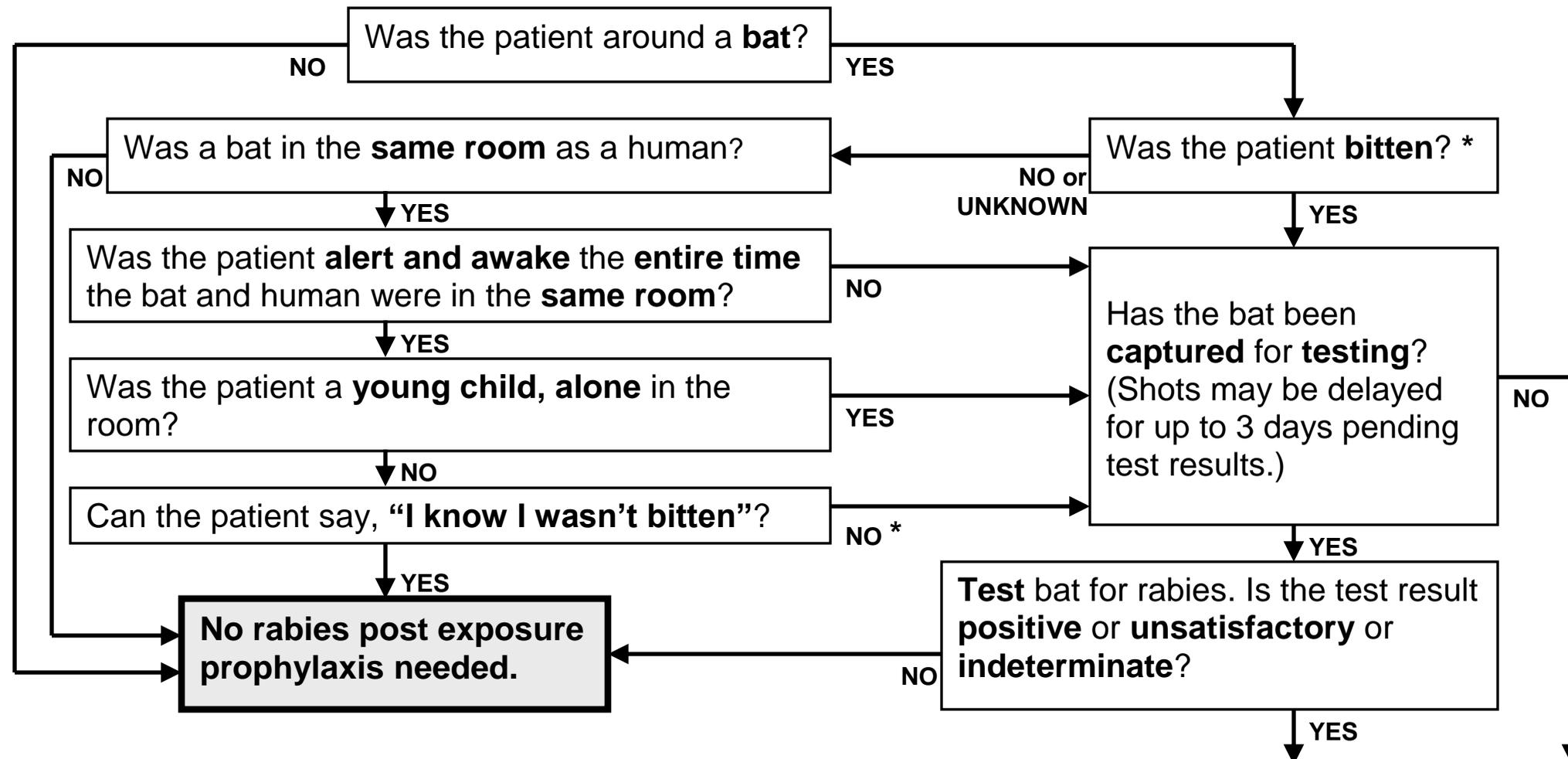


# Rabies Exposure Management for Bat-related Incidents (FAQ's on reverse)



\* Thoroughly wash any wounds with soap and water and, if available, flush with povidone iodine solution (or other virucidal solution). Evaluate tetanus vaccination status, update if needed.

Administer rabies post exposure prophylaxis (PEP): Human Rabies Immune-Globulin (HRIG) on day 0, plus a series of Human Rabies Vaccines (HRV) on days 0, 3, 7, and 14 (immune compromised patients should receive a 5<sup>th</sup> dose on day 28 and subsequent titer check).



Iowa Department of Public Health, Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)  
 Business hours consultations: 800-362-2736 After hours consultations: 515-323-4360

## **RABIES EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

### **What constitutes an exposure?**

- There was a bite from an animal to a human.
- There was saliva/neural tissue contact from an animal to a human's open cut or mucous membrane.
- A bat is found in the same room with a sleeping person, an unattended child, an intoxicated person, or anyone unable to confirm that they were NOT bitten.

### **What is not an exposure?**

- Other contact, such as contact with blood, urine, skunk spray, or feces, does not constitute an exposure and is not an indication for prophylaxis.

### **There was a bat in my house. Should my family get rabies post exposure prophylaxis?**

Family members need prophylaxis if EXPOSED (see above) AND

- the bat was tested and found to be rabies positive, indeterminate, or unsatisfactory to test, or
- the bat was not caught and therefore cannot be tested.

### **What if a patient can't / doesn't adhere to the rabies post exposure vaccination schedule?**

- The effectiveness of the rabies vaccines may be compromised if the recommended vaccination schedule is not followed. EVERY EFFORT should be made to administer the vaccines in accordance with the recommended schedule. If a rabies vaccine has been missed, the schedule should resume with the dose missed (i.e., If day 7 vaccine is missed (3<sup>rd</sup> dose), administer a vaccine today and call this vaccination the "day 7" (3<sup>rd</sup> dose) vaccination. The next vaccine (4<sup>th</sup> dose) would be given in 7 more days on "day 14", in keeping with the remainder of the 0, 3, 7, 14 day schedule. Immune compromised patients will need a 5<sup>th</sup> dose of vaccine 14 days later on "day 28" and will also need a subsequent titer check. Contact CADE, (800) 362-2736 for additional consultation.

### **I can't exclude bats from my house, should I get pre exposure prophylaxis?**

- If bats are found routinely inside the home and the house cannot be "bat proofed", consult your health care provider to consider pre exposure vaccination.
- Patients who have received pre exposure prophylaxis will still need two human rabies vaccines (day 0 and 3) after subsequent rabies exposures.

### **If a person previously vaccinated with Human Rabies Vaccine is exposed to a rabid animal, what is required for post exposure prophylaxis?**

- Persons with previous rabies vaccination [completed series of the three vaccine pre exposure prophylaxis or the series of four/five vaccines and Human Rabies Immune Globulin post exposure prophylaxis (using Human Diploid Cell Vaccine, Rabies Vaccine Adsorbed, or Purified Chick Embryo Vaccines)], should receive two doses of rabies vaccine on days 0 and 3. The person does not need Human Rabies Immune Globulin.
- Persons previously vaccinated with a rabies vaccination regimen NOT LISTED ABOVE should receive full post exposure prophylaxis unless they have a documented rabies antibody titer (corresponding to complete neutralization dilution of 1:5 or greater by RFFIT testing). Persons with a documented antibody titer should receive two doses of rabies vaccine on days 0 and 3.

### **Where can I find Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG) and Human Rabies Vaccine (HRV)?**

- Hospitals, especially the larger hospitals, across Iowa carry Human Rabies Immune Globulin and Human Rabies Vaccine.
- If you need to order Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG) or Human Rabies Vaccine (HRV), contact the following manufacturers:

#### **Imogam Rabies (HRIG) Hyperab (HRIG)**

sanofi pasteur  
800-822-2463

Talecris  
800-243-4153

#### **Imovax (HRV)**

sanofi pasteur  
*human diploid cell vaccine*  
800-822-2463

#### **RabAvert (HRV)**

Novartis  
*purified chick embryo cell culture*  
877-683-4732

### **How do I get an animal tested for rabies?**

Animals can be tested for rabies at one of the following laboratories:

	<b>University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL)</b>	<b>Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL)</b>
<b>Address</b>	102 Oakdale Campus H101 OH Oakdale Campus, Iowa City, IA 52242 800-421-4692 (call first)	600 S. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street Ames, IA 50011 515-294-1950 (call first)
<b>Web instructions</b>	<a href="http://www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/rabies_slip.pdf">www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/rabies_slip.pdf</a>	<a href="http://www.vetmed.iastate.edu/departments/vdpam/vdl.aspx?id=2122#rabies_specimens">www.vetmed.iastate.edu/departments/vdpam/vdl.aspx?id=2122#rabies_specimens</a>
<b>Submissions</b>	Submit the whole (dead) animal if it is bat-sized or mouse-sized. Submit the HEAD ONLY if animal is larger than a bat/mouse (should be removed by veterinarian). Live bats are accepted when container labeled "LIVE BAT."	Whole (dead) animal submissions are preferred. Heads of larger animals are accepted (removed by veterinarian, removal instructions on VDL Web site). Occasional live animal submissions are accepted with prior approval. There is a fee for euthanasia.
<b>Results</b>	UHL Rabies Test Request Form is required (Available from the UHL Web site). Results are reported ONLY to the physician or veterinarian listed on submission form. Testing is performed 7 days/week. Results (except negatives) phoned to physician/veterinarian.	VDL Rabies Examination Submission Form is required. (Available from the VDL Web site.) Note if a human exposure has occurred for prompt testing. Results are reported to the submitter listed on the submission form. Testing performed M-F (after-hrs testing on approval, only if human exposure). Results phoned to submitter.
<b>Packaging</b>	Double bag the specimen to prevent leaking. Package the specimen with ice or refrigerant packs. DO NOT FREEZE THE SPECIMEN. If bat is alive, label the package "LIVE BAT."	Use a leak-proof container with refrigerant packs. Package the specimen with refrigerant packs. DO NOT FREEZE THE SPECIMEN. Label the package "RABIES SUSPECT."
<b>Transport</b>	Private carrier (patient, relative, or designee) drives the sample and completed form to UHL. Overnight commercial carrier (Fed EX preferred) transports properly packaged sample (dead animals only) and completed form.	Private carrier (patient, relative, or designee) drives the sample and completed form to VDL or An overnight commercial carrier (FedEX, UPS, etc.) transports the sample properly packaged sample and completed form to VDL.
<b>After hours drop off</b>	University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) Emergency Room will receive after hours samples. Remain in ER until specimen is properly received by ER staff.	Call after hours staff at 515-290-1969 prior to submission for proper drop-off instructions. Dead animals are preferred. There is a fee for euthanasia.
<b>Charge for testing?</b>	There is no charge for testing if there has been a human exposure (exposure definition above).	Yes. Please note if human exposure has occurred to ensure prompt testing.