

# RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

## Quick Reference Guide for Clinicians\*

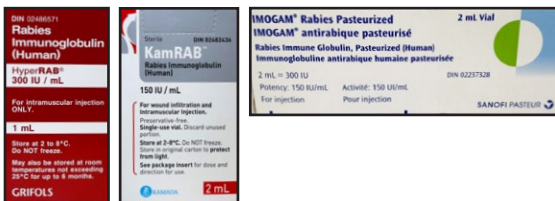
### Rabies Immune Globulin (RabIg) – HyperRAB® (1mL) / KamRAB® (2mL) / IMOGAM® (2mL)

- All RabIg is ideally administered on Day 0 to individuals who have not [previously received](#) appropriate rabies immunization
- If RabIg is missed on Day 0, it can be given up to and including Day 7 since the first dose of vaccine
- Dose of 20 IU/kg by body weight for all age groups
- Do not administer more than the maximum dosage of RabIg for body weight

**For 2 mL vials:** Total dose in mL =  
 $\frac{20 \text{ IU/kg} \times (\text{patient weight in kg})}{150 \text{ IU/mL}}$

**For 1 mL vials:** Total dose in mL =  
 $\frac{20 \text{ IU/kg} \times (\text{patient weight in kg})}{300 \text{ IU/mL}}$

| TOTAL BODY WEIGHT |             | # VIALS |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|
| ≤ 33 lbs          | ≤ 15 Kg     | 1       |
| >33–66 lbs        | >15–30 Kg   | 2       |
| >66–99 lbs        | >30–45 Kg   | 3       |
| >99–132 lbs       | >45–60 Kg   | 4       |
| >132–165 lbs      | >60–75 Kg   | 5       |
| >165–198 lbs      | >75–90 Kg   | 6       |
| >198–231 lbs      | >90–105 Kg  | 7       |
| >231–264 lbs      | >105–120 Kg | 8       |
| >264–297 lbs      | >120–135 Kg | 9       |
| >297–330 lbs      | >135–150 Kg | 10      |



- Infiltrate each wound/exposure site with a portion of RabIg using a separate needle and syringe. If required, dilute RabIg per product monograph
- If the entire dose cannot anatomically be infiltrated around the wound(s)/exposure site(s), inject remaining RabIg intramuscularly (IM) at a site distant from vaccine administration site using a separate needle and syringe
- DO NOT administer RabIg in the same anatomical location as rabies vaccine

### Rabies Vaccine - IMOVAX® (HDCV) / RabAvert® (PCECV)

- Rabies vaccine starts on Day 0 and follows the recommended schedule based on patient profile

| PATIENT PROFILE  | DAY 0 | DAY 3 | DAY 7 | DAY 14 | DAY 28 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Patient <a href="#">previously immunized</a> with rabies vaccine (Total 2 doses) | ●     | ●     |       |        |        |
| Immunocompetent patient (Total 4 doses)  | ●     | ●     | ●     | ●      |        |
| <a href="#">Immunocompromised</a> patient or on chloroquine (Total 5 doses)      | ●     | ●     | ●     | ●      | ●      |



- Administer rabies vaccine dose (1.0 mL) IM in the deltoid (children & adults) or anterolateral thigh (infants & small children). NEVER administer rabies vaccine in the gluteal region
- Administer at different anatomical site from RabIg using a separate needle and syringe
- Ensure ALL doses are administered at appropriate intervals. DO NOT administer doses early
- If a dose is delayed, it should be given ASAP and the schedule resumed following the correct interval
- Consider if [post-vaccination serology](#) is needed, including if patient is immunocompromised, had substantial deviation from the dosing schedule, or started [post-exposure prophylaxis outside Canada](#)

**Note:** Immediate and thorough [cleaning and flushing](#) of the wound with soap and water is also imperative and is probably the most effective procedure in the prevention of rabies.

## COMMON ADVERSE REACTIONS\*\*

\*\*Serious adverse reactions are rare. Please check the product monograph for full list of side effects.

### Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg) - HyperRAB® / KamRAB® / IMOGAM®

- Local: pain, erythema, induration
- Systemic: headache, low-grade fever, dizziness

### Rabies Vaccine - IMOVAX® (HDCV)

- Local: pain, erythema, swelling, pruritus, induration
- Systemic: headache, nausea, abdominal pain, muscle aches, dizziness

### Rabies Vaccine - RabAvert® (PCECV)

- Local: pain, tenderness, swelling, erythema, induration
- Systemic: malaise, myalgia, arthralgia, headache, fever

## CONTRAINDICATIONS & PRECAUTIONS

- No contraindications for rabies vaccine/Rablg after significant exposure to a rabid animal, but consultation should be sought if patient is hypersensitive to the product, its components, or container
- Post-exposure vaccination should not be postponed due to acute illness
- Pregnancy is not a contraindication to post-exposure prophylaxis with rabies vaccine or Rablg

| PRODUCT   | POTENTIAL ALLERGENS  |
|-----------|--|
| IMOGAM®   | latex in vial stopper  |
| IMOVAX®   | neomycin, phenol red   |
| RabAvert® | amphotericin B, chick protein, chlortetracycline, neomycin, polygeline (gelatin) |

## DRUG INTERACTIONS

| PRODUCT        | INTERACTIONS  | EFFECTS AND CONSIDERATIONS   |
|----------------|---|--|
| Rabies Vaccine | Radiation therapy, chloroquine, corticosteroids, immunosuppressive agents | Diminished efficacy of rabies vaccine<br>Check serology 7-14 days after vaccination completion   |
| Rablg          | MMR, MMRV, monovalent varicella vaccines                                  | Diminished response to these live vaccines<br>Delay immunization with these vaccines for 4 months after Rablg. <a href="#">Repeat vaccine</a> dose if Rablg was given <14 days after immunizing with these vaccines. |

## VACCINE INTERCHANGEABILITY

Wherever possible, an immunization series should be completed with the same vaccine product. However, if it is not feasible to do so, PCECV and HDCV are considered interchangeable.

**\*For more information about rabies post-exposure prophylaxis, please see the following resources:**

[Canadian Immunization Guide](#) – Government of Canada

[Management of Potential Rabies Exposures Guideline](#) – Ontario Ministry of Health

[Management of Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis and Assessment of Vaccine Series Initiated Outside of Canada](#) – Public Health Ontario

[How to Administer Post-Exposure Prophylaxis](#) – Public Health Ontario

How to Administer Rabies Immune Globulin and Rabies Vaccine [Video](#)

If you have questions regarding a potential animal exposure, rabies risk assessment, or would like to request post-exposure prophylaxis, call **York Region Public Health - Health Connection** at **1-800-361-5653** (weekdays between 8:30 and 4:30pm) or **1-888-335-0111** (after hours, weekends or holidays).