

Rabies, a zoonosis, is 100% fatal once symptoms of the disease appear but rabies is almost 100% preventable if the prophylactic measures with proper wound wash, vaccines and immunoglobulins are instituted soon after exposure. Transmission to humans occurs by bite of infected animals. In humans, rabies usually presents in a furious form than as a paralytic form. Signs of nervous system involvement like hyperactivity, disorientation, seizures, bizarre behavior, nuchal stiffness and paralysis. Hydrophobia (fear of water) and aerophobia (sensitivity to air currents) develop in most cases of human rabies. In India, rabies is mostly transmitted by dog, both pet and stray, accounting for more than 96% cases. Children are more susceptible to animal bites and suffer almost twice the attacks than adults and 35% of deaths are reported in children only. The most vital aspect of management of animal bite is proper management of bite wounds by flushing the wound with copious amount of running water, then with soap and water and take the patient to hospital. Rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) when administered, provides passive immunity and should be infiltrated in and around the wounds till its depth without injecting the rest intramuscular (IM) as per latest WHO consultation 2018. Active immunization is done by modern cell culture vaccines. Children, at high risk of being bitten by animals or those having pets at home, need to be given pre-exposure prophylaxis. Keywords: Rabies, animal bite, rabies vaccine, wound wash