



## Rabies - RabAvert®, Imovax® Rabies

The rabies vaccine protects those who have been bitten, scratched or had other contact with an animal that may have rabies.

### **Who should get this vaccine?** <sup>1</sup>

Anyone that has possibly come into contact with the rabies virus through a bite, scratch or other contact with a potentially infected animal. Anyone who has had contact with a bat.

### **How well does this vaccine work?** <sup>1</sup>

This vaccine when used in combination with rabies immune globulin is highly effective at preventing rabies. No post-exposure prophylaxis failures have occurred in Canada or the US when the vaccine and rabies immune globulin are given as per the recommended schedule.

### **Is there an alternative to this vaccine?** <sup>3</sup>

At this time there are no other ways to prevent this disease.

### **Is this vaccine safe?**

The risk of a serious reaction or side effect from this vaccine is much less than the risk of rabies.

If you experience any side effect worse than what is listed below, please seek medical advice and notify the health unit.

### **Common side effects of this vaccine** <sup>1</sup>

- Pain where needle was given.
- Redness
- Swelling
- Hard lump
- Itching

### **Less common:**

- Headache
- Nausea
- Abdominal pain
- Muscle aches
- Dizziness
- Feeling unwell
- Fever
- Muscle pain
- Joint pain

### **Who should not receive this vaccine?**

There is no contraindication to receiving this vaccine, when it is indicated for post-exposure prophylaxis.

If someone has an allergy to a vaccine component or has an allergic reaction to a dose of Rabies vaccine, they should receive the remaining doses in the series in their local hospital Emergency department.

## What is in this vaccine? <sup>2</sup>

RabAvert®	Imovax® Rabies	Also found in...
Amphotericin B		Antibiotics
Chlortetracycline		Antibiotics
Neomycin	Neomycin	Antibiotics
Gelatin		Jell-O
Egg protein		Eggs
Human serum albumin	Human serum albumin	Drug manufacturing
	Phenol red	Medicine –to measure blood flow through kidneys

### References:

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 4-Active Vaccines: Rabies Vaccine. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 1-Key Immunization Information 2013. Table 1: Types and contents of vaccines available for use in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Canada Food and Inspection Agency. Fact Sheet-Rabies. Government of Canada; 2015.

Moore, D. Your Child's Best Shot (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015.