

Rabies Vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

November 2022

Vaccination is the best protection against rabies.

Rabies is a fatal disease caused by a virus found in some animals.

Disease	Transmission	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Rabies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rabies is spread by the bite of a rabid animal, or a wound or mucous membrane coming into contact with its saliva. <p><i>After possible exposure to rabies, you should wash the wound with soap and water for several minutes.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pain and numbness around the biteAgitationDifficulty swallowingConvulsions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Death

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against rabies. The vaccine is recommended if a person has been bitten by an animal that may have rabies, or who has a wound or mucous membrane that has come into contact with the animal's saliva. It may also be given to someone who is at risk of being exposed to the rabies virus. Several doses of vaccine are required. It is very important not to miss any of the vaccination appointments in order to ensure maximum effectiveness of the vaccine. A person who has already been vaccinated against rabies will need to be re-vaccinated if exposed to the virus again.

Next vaccination appointments: _____

Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g. redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).

Rabies vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long.

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
In most cases (more than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.Use a medication for fever or discomfort if needed.See a doctor if symptoms are severe.
Very often (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nausea, muscle soreness, dizziness	
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Itching at the injection siteDiscomfort, fatigue, headache, itching, vomiting, belly ache, diarrhea, joint pain, fever, shivering, itchy red patches on the skin, swollen lymph nodes	
Rarely (less than 1 person in 1,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Allergic reaction, asthma	

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

**For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine,
or Info-Santé 811 or your doctor.**