



MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF AN ANIMAL BITE

IMPORTANT

- Any person embarking on an assignment abroad, especially in an area far from healthcare facilities, must consult the occupational physician before leaving, in order to assess the need for preventive rabies vaccination, and keep the contact details of anti-rabies centres in the areas visited.
- Any vaccinated person will need to quickly receive two booster injections, one on the day of the suspicious biting incident and one three days later.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IMMEDIATELY

- Wash the wound with plenty of running water and rinse with water abundantly, remove any foreign bodies.
- Disinfect the wound preferably by soaking it for at least 5 minutes of contact time in a chlorine derivative (such as Dakin® or 1:5 dilution of 2.6% active chlorine solution (bleach)) or an iodine derivative such as povidon-iodine (Betadine®), otherwise, use surgical spirit.

- **Take medical advice in all cases**, as antibiotic treatment may be required even if the injury looks minor.
- Always check that the **tetanus vaccine** is valid.
- Any deep wound requires a specialist medical examination to detect deep injury and/or a foreign body.



FOCUS ON RABIES

Rabies is a particularly widespread disease. It is endemic in Asia and Africa and, to a lesser degree, in the other regions of the world except Antarctica. It is mostly transmitted by saliva after a bite (and also a lick), generally from dogs but also from other mammals (foxes, skunks, etc.) including bats (with viruses different from those of dogs). The latter are particularly closely monitored in Europe. There has been no case of human rabies diagnosed on the French mainland since 1924. The very rare cases described were all imported.

Any wound resulting from a suspicious wild mammal, especially in an endemic zone, should alert to the risk of rabies. In addition to careful cleaning and rapid and effective disinfection of the wound, an anti-rabies centre must be contacted as a matter of urgency (within 24 hours) in order to start “therapeutic” vaccination. This is because, once declared, the disease is always fatal.

The list of anti-rabies centres accredited by the French Ministry of Health can be found on the Institut Pasteur website: <https://www.pasteur.fr/fr/centre-medical/consultations/centre-antirabique>

REMEMBER

A workplace accident must be declared to the Human Resources Department as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours), by submitting a medical certificate and a workplace accident declaration form:



https://intranet.cnrs.fr/Cnrs_pratique/recruiter/Pages/D%C3%A9claration-d%E2%80%99accident-du-travail-et-de-maladie-professionnelle.aspx «**Déclaration d'accident du travail et de maladie professionnelle**»