

Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease that causes inflammation of the brain in humans and other mammals.^[1] Early symptoms can include fever and tingling at the site of exposure.^[1] These symptoms are followed by one or more of the following symptoms: violent movements, uncontrolled excitement, fear of water, an inability to move parts of the body, confusion, and loss of consciousness.^[1] Once symptoms appear, the result is nearly always death.^[1] The time period between contracting the disease and the start of symptoms is usually one to three months, but can vary from less than one week to more than one year.^[1] The time depends on the distance the virus must travel along peripheral nerves to reach the central nervous system.^[5]

Rabies is caused by lyssaviruses, including the rabies virus and Australian bat lyssavirus.^[3] It is spread when an infected animal scratches or bites a human or other animal.^[1] Saliva from an infected animal can also transmit rabies if the saliva comes into contact with the eyes, mouth, or nose.^[1] Globally, dogs are the most common animal involved.^[1] In countries where dogs commonly have the disease, more than 99% of rabies cases are the direct result of dog bites.^[6] In the Americas, bat bites are the most common source of rabies infections in humans, and less than 5% of cases are from dogs.^{[1][6]} Rodents are very rarely infected with rabies.^[6] The disease can be diagnosed only after the start of symptoms.^[1]

Animal control and vaccination programs have decreased the risk of rabies from dogs in a number of regions of the world.^[1] Immunizing people before they are exposed is recommended for those at high risk, including those who work with bats or who spend prolonged periods in areas of the world where rabies is common.^[1] In people who have been exposed to rabies, the rabies vaccine and sometimes rabies immunoglobulin are effective in preventing the disease if the person receives the treatment before the start of rabies symptoms.^[1] Washing bites and scratches for 15 minutes with soap and water, povidone-iodine, or detergent may reduce the number of viral particles and may be somewhat effective at preventing transmission.^{[1][7]} As of 2016, only fourteen people had survived a rabies infection after showing symptoms.^{[8][9][10]}

Rabies	
	
A dog with rabies in the paralytic (post-furious) stage	
Specialty	Infectious disease
Symptoms	Fever, fear of water, confusion, excessive salivation, hallucinations, trouble sleeping, paralysis, coma ^{[1][2]}
Causes	Rabies virus and Australian bat lyssavirus ^[3]
Prevention	Rabies vaccine, animal control, rabies immunoglobulin ^[1]
Prognosis	Nearly always death ^[1]
Deaths	17,400 (2015) ^[4]

Rabies caused about 17,400 human deaths worldwide in 2015.^[4] More than 95% of human deaths from rabies occur in Africa and Asia.^[1] About 40% of deaths occur in children under the age of 15.^[11] Rabies is present in more than 150 countries and on all continents but Antarctica.^[1] More than 3 billion people live in regions of the world where rabies occurs.^[1] A number of countries, including Australia and Japan, as well as much of Western Europe, do not have rabies among dogs.^{[12][13]} Many Pacific islands do not have rabies at all.^[13] It is classified as a neglected tropical disease.^[14]

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Signs and symptoms

The period between infection and the first symptoms (incubation period) is typically 1–3 months in humans.^[15] This period may be as short as four days or longer than six years, depending on the location and severity of the wound and the amount of virus introduced.^[15] Initial symptoms of rabies are often nonspecific such as fever and headache.^[15] As rabies progresses and causes inflammation of the brain

and meninges, symptoms can include slight or partial paralysis, anxiety, insomnia, confusion, agitation, abnormal behavior, paranoia, terror, and hallucinations.^{[5][15]} The person may also have fear of water.^[1]

The symptoms eventually progress to delirium, and coma.^{[5][15]} Death usually occurs 2 to 10 days after first symptoms. Survival is almost unknown once symptoms have presented, even with the intensive care.^{[15][16]}



A man with rabies, 1959

Fear of water

Hydrophobia ("fear of water") is the historic name for rabies.^[17] It refers to a set of symptoms in the later stages of an infection in which the person has difficulty swallowing, shows panic when presented with liquids to drink, and cannot quench their thirst. Any mammal infected with the virus may demonstrate hydrophobia.^[18] Saliva production is greatly increased, and attempts to drink, or even the intention or suggestion of drinking, may cause excruciatingly painful spasms of the muscles in the throat and larynx. This can be attributed to the fact that the virus multiplies and assimilates in the salivary glands of the infected animal with the effect of further transmission through biting. The ability to transmit the virus would decrease significantly if the infected individual could swallow saliva and water.^[19] Hydrophobia is commonly associated with furious rabies, which affects 80% of rabies-infected people. The remaining 20% may experience a paralytic form of rabies that is marked by muscle weakness, loss of sensation, and paralysis; this form of rabies does not usually cause fear of water.^[18]

Cause

Rabies is caused by a number of *lyssaviruses* including the rabies virus and Australian bat lyssavirus.^[3]

The rabies virus is the type species of the *Lyssavirus* genus, in the family *Rhabdoviridae*, order *Mononegavirales*. Lyssavirions have helical symmetry, with a length of about 180 nm and a cross-section of about 75 nm.^[20] These virions are enveloped and have a single-stranded RNA genome with negative sense. The genetic information is packed as a ribonucleoprotein complex in which RNA is tightly bound by the viral nucleoprotein. The RNA genome of the virus encodes five genes whose order is highly conserved: nucleoprotein (N), phosphoprotein (P), matrix protein (M), glycoprotein (G), and the viral RNA polymerase (L).^[21]

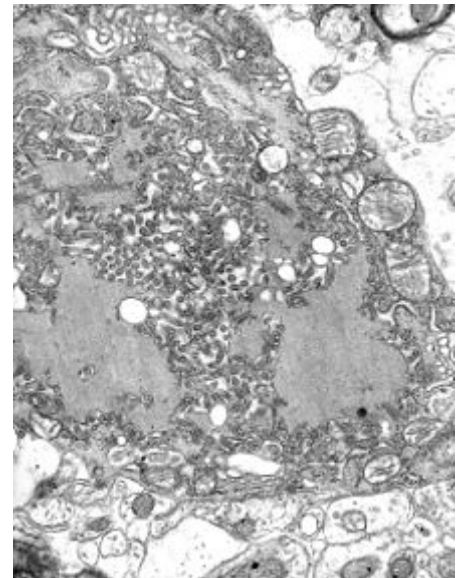


Drawing of the rabies virus.

Once within a muscle or nerve cell, the virus undergoes replication. The trimeric spikes on the exterior of the membrane of the virus interact with a specific cell receptor, the most likely one being the acetylcholine receptor. The cellular membrane pinches in a procession known as pinocytosis and allows entry of the virus into the cell by way of an endosome. The virus then uses the acidic environment, which is necessary, of that endosome and binds to its membrane simultaneously, releasing its five proteins and single strand RNA into the cytoplasm.^[22]

The L protein then transcribes five mRNA strands and a positive strand of RNA all from the original negative strand RNA using free nucleotides in the cytoplasm. These five mRNA strands are then translated into their corresponding proteins (P, L, N, G and M proteins) at free ribosomes in the cytoplasm. Some proteins require post-translative modifications. For example, the G protein travels through the rough endoplasmic reticulum, where it undergoes further folding, and is then transported to the Golgi apparatus, where a sugar group is added to it (glycosylation).^[22]

When there are enough viral proteins, the viral polymerase will begin to synthesize new negative strands of RNA from the template of the positive strand RNA. These negative strands will then form complexes with the N, P, L and M proteins and then travel to the inner membrane of the cell, where a G protein has embedded itself in the membrane. The G protein then coils around the N-P-L-M complex of proteins taking some of the host cell membrane with it, which will form the new outer envelope of the virus particle. The virus then buds from the cell.^[22]



TEM micrograph with numerous rabies virions (small, dark grey, rodlike particles) and Negri bodies (the larger pathognomonic cellular inclusions of rabies infection)

From the point of entry, the virus is neurotropic, traveling along the neural pathways into the central nervous system. The virus usually first infects muscle cells close to the site of infection, where they are able to replicate without being 'noticed' by the host's immune system. Once enough virus has been replicated, they begin to bind to acetylcholine receptors at the neuromuscular junction.^[23] The virus then travels through the nerve cell axon via retrograde transport, as its P protein interacts with dynein, a protein present in the cytoplasm of nerve cells. Once the virus reaches the cell body it travels rapidly to the central nervous system (CNS), replicating in motor neurons and eventually reaching the brain.^[5] After the brain is infected, the virus travels centrifugally to the peripheral and autonomic nervous systems, eventually migrating to the salivary glands, where it is ready to be transmitted to the next host.^{[24]:317}

Transmission

All warm-blooded species, including humans, may become infected with the rabies virus and develop symptoms. Birds were first artificially infected with rabies in 1884; however, infected birds are largely, if not wholly, asymptomatic, and recover.^[25] Other bird species have been known to develop rabies antibodies, a sign of infection, after feeding on rabies-infected mammals.^{[26][27]}

The virus has also adapted to grow in cells of cold-blooded vertebrates.^{[28][29]} Most animals can be infected by the virus and can transmit the disease to humans. Infected bats,^{[30][31]} monkeys, raccoons, foxes, skunks, cattle, wolves, coyotes, dogs, cats, and mongooses (normally either the small Asian mongoose or the yellow mongoose)^[32] present the greatest risk to humans.



A rabid dog

Rabies may also spread through exposure to infected bears, domestic farm animals, groundhogs, weasels, and other wild carnivorans. However, lagomorphs, such as hares and rabbits, and small rodents such as chipmunks, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats, and squirrels, are almost never found to be infected with rabies and are not known to transmit rabies to humans.^[33] Bites from mice, rats, or squirrels rarely require rabies prevention because these rodents are typically killed by any encounter with a larger, rabid animal, and would, therefore, not be carriers.^[34] The Virginia opossum is resistant but not immune to rabies.^[35]

The virus is usually present in the nerves and saliva of a symptomatic rabid animal.^{[36][37]} The route of infection is usually, but not always, by a bite. In many cases, the infected animal is exceptionally aggressive, may attack without provocation, and exhibits otherwise uncharacteristic behavior.^[38] This is an example of a viral pathogen modifying the behavior of its host to facilitate its transmission to other hosts.

Transmission between humans is extremely rare. A few cases have been recorded through transplant surgery.^[39] The only well-documented cases of rabies caused by human-to-human transmission occurred among eight recipients of transplanted corneas and among three recipients of solid organs.^[40] In addition to transmission from cornea and organ transplants, bite and non-bite exposures inflicted by infected humans could theoretically transmit rabies, but no such cases have been documented, since infected humans are usually hospitalized and necessary precautions taken. Casual contact, such as touching a person with rabies or contact with non-infectious fluid or tissue (urine, blood, feces) does not constitute an exposure and does not require post-exposure prophylaxis. Additionally, as the virus is present in sperm or vaginal secretions, spread through sex may be possible.^[41]

After a typical human infection by bite, the virus enters the peripheral nervous system. It then travels along the afferent nerves toward the central nervous system.^[42] During this phase, the virus cannot be easily detected within the host, and vaccination may still confer cell-mediated immunity to prevent symptomatic rabies. When the virus reaches the brain, it rapidly causes encephalitis, the prodromal phase, which is the beginning of the symptoms. Once the patient becomes symptomatic, treatment is almost never effective and mortality is over 99%. Rabies may also inflame the spinal cord, producing transverse myelitis.^{[43][44]}

Diagnosis

Rabies can be difficult to diagnose because, in the early stages, it is easily confused with other diseases or with aggressiveness.^[45] The reference method for diagnosing rabies is the fluorescent antibody test (FAT), an immunohistochemistry procedure, which is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).^[46] The FAT relies on the ability of a detector molecule (usually fluorescein isothiocyanate) coupled with a rabies-specific antibody, forming a conjugate, to bind to and allow the visualisation of rabies antigen using fluorescent microscopy techniques. Microscopic analysis of samples is the only direct method that allows for the identification of rabies virus-specific antigen in a short time and at a reduced cost, irrespective of geographical origin and status of the host. It has to be regarded as the first step in diagnostic procedures for all laboratories. Autolysed samples can, however, reduce the sensitivity and specificity of the FAT.^[47] The RT PCR assays proved to be a sensitive and specific tool for routine diagnostic purposes,^[48] particularly in decomposed samples^[49] or archival specimens.^[50] The diagnosis can be reliably made from brain samples taken after death. The diagnosis can also be made from saliva, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid samples, but this is not as sensitive or reliable as brain samples.^[47]

Cerebral inclusion bodies called Negri bodies are 100% diagnostic for rabies infection but are found in only about 80% of cases.^[20] If possible, the animal from which the bite was received should also be examined for rabies.^[51]

Some light microscopy techniques may also be used to diagnose rabies at a tenth of the cost of traditional fluorescence microscopy techniques, allowing identification of the disease in less-developed countries.^[52] A test for rabies, known as LN34, is easier to run on a dead animal's brain and might help determine who does and does not need post-exposure prevention.^[53] The test was developed by the CDC in 2018.^[53]

Differential diagnosis

The differential diagnosis in a case of suspected human rabies may initially include any cause of encephalitis, in particular infection with viruses such as herpesviruses, enteroviruses, and arboviruses such as West Nile virus. The most important viruses to rule out are herpes simplex virus type one, varicella zoster virus, and (less commonly) enteroviruses, including coxsackieviruses, echoviruses, polioviruses, and human enteroviruses 68 to 71.^[54]

New causes of viral encephalitis are also possible, as was evidenced by the 1999 outbreak in Malaysia of 300 cases of encephalitis with a mortality rate of 40% caused by Nipah virus, a newly recognized paramyxovirus.^[55] Likewise, well-known viruses may be introduced into new locales, as is illustrated by the outbreak of encephalitis due to West Nile virus in the eastern United States.^[56] Epidemiologic factors, such as season, geographic location, and the patient's age, travel history, and possible exposure to bites, rodents, and ticks, may help direct the diagnosis.

Prevention

Almost all human cases of rabies were fatal until a vaccine was developed in 1885 by Louis Pasteur and Émile Roux. Their original vaccine was harvested from infected rabbits, from which the virus in the nerve tissue was weakened by allowing it to dry for five to ten days.^[57] Similar nerve tissue-derived vaccines are still used in some countries, as they are much cheaper than modern cell culture vaccines.^[58]

The human diploid cell rabies vaccine was started in 1967. Less expensive purified chicken embryo cell vaccine and purified vero cell rabies vaccine are now available.^[51] A recombinant vaccine called V-RG has been used in Belgium, France, Germany, and the United States to prevent outbreaks of rabies in undomesticated animals.^[59] Immunization before exposure has been used in both human and nonhuman populations, where, as in many jurisdictions, domesticated animals are required to be vaccinated.^[60]

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Communicable Disease Surveillance 2007 Annual Report states the following can help reduce the risk of contracting rabies:^[61]

- Vaccinating dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies
- Keeping pets under supervision
- Not handling wild animals or strays
- Contacting an animal control officer upon observing a wild animal or a stray, especially if the animal is acting strangely
- If bitten by an animal, washing the wound with soap and water for 10 to 15 minutes and contacting a healthcare provider to determine if post-exposure prophylaxis is required

28 September is World Rabies Day, which promotes the information, prevention, and elimination of the disease.^[62]

Vaccinating other animals

In Asia and in parts of the Americas and Africa, dogs remain the principal host. Mandatory vaccination of animals is less effective in rural areas. Especially in developing countries, pets may not be privately kept and their destruction may be unacceptable. Oral vaccines can be safely distributed in baits, a practice that has successfully reduced rabies in rural areas of Canada, France, and the United States. In Montreal, Quebec, Canada, baits are successfully used on raccoons in the Mount-Royal Park area. Vaccination campaigns may be expensive, and cost-benefit analysis suggests baits may be a cost-effective method of control.^[63] In Ontario, a dramatic drop in rabies was recorded when an aerial bait-vaccination campaign was launched.^[64]

The number of recorded human deaths from rabies in the United States has dropped from 100 or more annually in the early 20th century to one or two per year due to widespread vaccination of domestic dogs and cats and the development of human vaccines and immunoglobulin treatments. Most deaths now result from bat bites, which may go unnoticed by the victim and hence untreated.^[65]

Treatment

After exposure

Treatment after exposure can prevent the disease if given within 10 days. The rabies vaccine is 100% effective if given early, and still has a chance of success if delivery is delayed.^{[20][22][66]} Every year, more than 15 million people get vaccination after potential exposure. While this works well, the cost is significant.^[67] In the US it is recommended people receive one dose of human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) and four doses of rabies vaccine over a 14-day period.^[68] HRIG is expensive and makes up most of the cost of post exposure treatment, ranging as high as several thousand dollars.^[69] As much as possible of this dose should be injected around the bites, with the remainder being given by deep intramuscular injection at a site distant from the vaccination site.^[22]

People who have previously been vaccinated against rabies do not need to receive the immunoglobulin, only the postexposure vaccinations on days 0 and 3.^[70] The side effects of modern cell-based vaccines are similar to flu shots. The old nerve-tissue-based vaccinations required multiple injections into the abdomen with a large needle but is inexpensive.^[51] It is being phased out and replaced by affordable World Health Organization intradermal-vaccination regimens.^[51] Intramuscular vaccination should be given into the deltoid, not the gluteal area, which has been associated with vaccination failure due to injection into fat rather than muscle. In children less than a year old, the lateral thigh is recommended.^[71] Thoroughly washing the wound as soon as possible with soap and water for approximately five minutes is effective in reducing the number of viral particles.^[72] Povidone-iodine or alcohol is then recommended to reduce the virus further.^[73]

Awakening to find a bat in the room, or finding a bat in the room of a previously unattended child or mentally disabled or intoxicated person, is an indication for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). The recommendation for the precautionary use of PEP in bat encounters where no contact is recognized has been questioned in the medical literature, based on a cost-benefit analysis.^[74] However, a 2002 study has

supported the protocol of precautionary administering of PEP where a child or mentally compromised individual has been alone with a bat, especially in sleep areas, where a bite or exposure may occur with the victim being unaware.^[75]

After onset

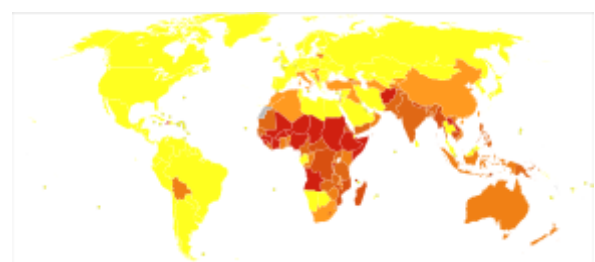
A treatment known as the Milwaukee protocol, which involves putting a person into a chemically induced coma and using antiviral medications, has been proposed but subsequently found not to be useful.^[76] It initially came into use in 2003, following Jeanna Giese, a teenager from Wisconsin, becoming the first person known to have survived rabies without preventive treatments before symptom onset.^{[77][78]} She, however, already had antibodies against rabies when she initially arrived at hospital.^[76] While this treatment has been tried multiple times more, there have been no further cases of survival.^[76] The protocol has since been assessed as an ineffective treatment with concerns related to the costs and ethics of its use.^{[76][79]}

Prognosis

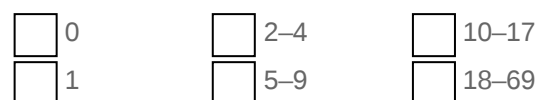
Vaccination after exposure, PEP, is highly successful in preventing the disease PEP against rabies.^[66] In unvaccinated humans, rabies is almost always fatal after neurological symptoms have developed.^[80]

Epidemiology

In 2010, an estimated 26,000 people died from rabies, down from 54,000 in 1990.^[81] The majority of the deaths occurred in Asia and Africa.^[80] As of 2015, India, followed by China (approximately 6,000), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (5,600) had the most cases.^[82] A 2015 collaboration between the World Health Organization, World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO), and Global Alliance for Rabies Control has a goal of eliminating deaths from rabies by 2030.^[83]

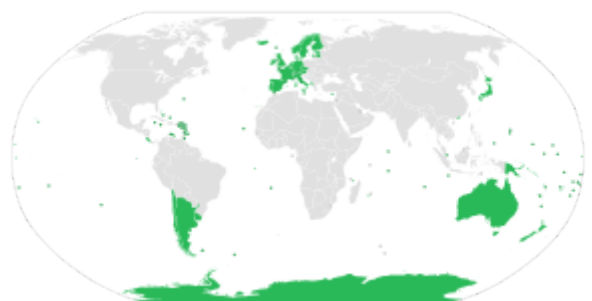


Deaths from rabies per million persons in 2012



India

India has the highest rate of human rabies in the world, primarily because of stray dogs,^[84] whose number has greatly increased since a 2001 law forbade the killing of dogs.^[85] Effective control and treatment of rabies in India is hindered by a form of mass hysteria known as puppy pregnancy syndrome (PPS). Dog bite victims with PPS, male as well as female, become convinced that puppies are growing inside them, and often seek help from faith healers rather than medical services.^[86] An estimated 20,000 people die every year from rabies in India, more than a third of the global total.^[85]



Map of rabies-free countries and territories

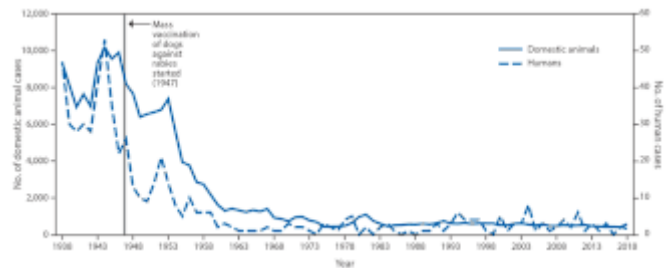
Australia

The rabies virus survives in widespread, varied, rural animal reservoirs. Despite Australia's official rabies-free status,^[87] Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV), discovered in 1996, is a strain of rabies prevalent in native bat populations. There have been three human cases of ABLV in Australia, all of them fatal.

United States

From 1960 to 2018, a total of 125 human rabies cases were reported in the United States; 36 (28%) were attributed to dog bites during international travel.^[88] Among the 89 infections acquired in the United States, 62 (70%) were attributed to bats.^[88]

While canine-specific rabies does not circulate among dogs, about a hundred dogs become infected from other wildlife per year in the US.^{[89][90]} Rabies is common among wild animals in the United States. Bats, raccoons, skunks and foxes account for almost all reported cases (98% in 2009). Rabid bats are found in all 48 contiguous states. Other reservoirs are more limited geographically; for example, the raccoon rabies virus variant is only found in a relatively narrow band along the East Coast. Due to a high public awareness of the virus, efforts at vaccination of domestic animals and curtailment of feral populations, and availability of postexposure prophylaxis, incidence of rabies in humans is very rare. A total of 49 cases of the disease was reported in the country between 1995 and 2011; of these, 11 are thought to have been acquired abroad. Almost all domestically acquired cases are attributed to bat bites.^[91]



Rabies cases in humans and domestic animals — United States, 1938–2018

Europe

Either no or very few cases of rabies are reported each year in Europe; cases are contracted both during travel and in Europe.^[92]

In Switzerland the disease was virtually eliminated after scientists placed chicken heads laced with live attenuated vaccine in the Swiss Alps.^[64] The foxes of Switzerland, proven to be the main source of rabies in the country, ate the chicken heads and immunized themselves.^{[64][93]}

Italy, after being declared rabies-free from 1997 to 2008, has witnessed a reemergence of the disease in wild animals in the Triveneto regions (Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol, Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia), due to the spreading of an epidemic in the Balkans that also affected Austria. An extensive wild animal vaccination campaign eliminated the virus from Italy again, and it regained the rabies-free country status in 2013, the last reported case of rabies being reported in a red fox in early 2011.^{[94][95]}

Great Britain has been free of rabies since the beginning of the twentieth century except for a rabies-like virus in a few Daubenton's bats; there has been one, fatal, case of transmission to a human. There have been four deaths from rabies, transmitted abroad by dog bite, since 2000. The last infection in the UK occurred in 1922, and the last death from indigenous rabies was in 1902.^{[96][97]} Unlike the other countries of Europe it is protected by being an island, and by strict quarantine procedures.

Mexico

Mexico was certified by the World Health Organization as free of dog-transmitted rabies in 2019, since no case of dog-human transmission has been recorded in two years.^[98]

History

Rabies has been known since around 2000 BC.^[99] The first written record of rabies is in the Mesopotamian Codex of Eshnunna (circa 1930 BC), which dictates that the owner of a dog showing symptoms of rabies should take preventive measure against bites. If another person were bitten by a rabid dog and later died, the owner was heavily fined.^[100]

Ineffective folk remedies abounded in the medical literature of the ancient world. The physician Scribonius Largus prescribed a poultice of cloth and hyena skin; Antaeus recommended a preparation made from the skull of a hanged man.^[101]

Rabies appears to have originated in the Old World, the first epizootic in the New World occurring in Boston in 1768.^[102] It spread from there, over the next few years, to various other states, as well as to the French West Indies, eventually becoming common all across North America.

Rabies was considered a scourge for its prevalence in the 19th century. In France and Belgium, where Saint Hubert was venerated, the "St Hubert's Key" was heated and applied to cauterize the wound. By an application of magical thinking, dogs were branded with the key in hopes of protecting them from rabies. The fear of rabies was almost irrational, due to the number of vectors (mostly rabid dogs) and the absence of any efficacious treatment. It was not uncommon for a person bitten by a dog merely suspected of being rabid to commit suicide or to be killed by others.^[103]

In ancient times the attachment of the tongue (the lingual frenulum, a mucous membrane) was cut and removed as this was where rabies was thought to originate. This practice ceased with the discovery of the actual cause of rabies.^[24] Louis Pasteur's 1885 nerve tissue vaccine was successful, and was progressively improved to reduce often severe side-effects.^[15]

In modern times, the fear of rabies has not diminished, and the disease and its symptoms, particularly agitation, have served as an inspiration for several works of zombie or similarly-themed fiction, often portraying rabies as having mutated into a stronger virus which fills humans with murderous rage or incurable illness, bringing about a devastating, widespread pandemic.^[104]

Etymology



A woodcut from the Middle Ages showing a rabid dog.



François Boissier de Sauvages de Lacroix, *Della natura e causa della rabbia* (*Dissertation sur la nature et la cause de la Rage*), 1777

The term is derived from the Latin *rabies*, "madness".^[105] This, in turn, may be related to the Sanskrit *rabhas*, "to rage".^[106] The Greeks derived the word *lyssa*, from *lud* or "violent"; this root is used in the genus name of the rabies virus, *Lyssavirus*.^[103]

Other animals

Rabies is infectious to mammals; three stages of central nervous system infection are recognized. The first stage is a one- to three-day period characterized by behavioral changes and is known as the prodromal stage. The second is the excitative stage, which lasts three to four days. This stage is often known as "furious rabies" for the tendency of the affected animal to be hyper-reactive to external stimuli and bite at anything near. The third is the paralytic stage and is caused by damage to motor neurons. Incoordination is seen, owing to rear limb paralysis, and drooling and difficulty swallowing is caused by paralysis of facial and throat muscles. Death is usually caused by respiratory arrest.^[107]

Research

The outer shell of the rabies virus, stripped of its RNA contents and thus unable to cause disease, may be used as a vector for the delivery of unrelated genetic material in a research setting. It has the advantage over other pseudotyping methods for gene delivery that the cell targeting (tissue tropism) is more specific for the central nervous system, a difficult-to-reach site, obviating the need for invasive delivery methods. It is also capable of infecting neighboring "upstream" cells, moving from one cell to axons of the next at synapses, and is thus used for retrograde tracing in neuronal circuits.^[108]

Evidence indicates artificially increasing the permeability of the blood–brain barrier, which normally does not allow most immune cells across, promotes viral clearance.^{[109][110]}

See also

- Global Alliance for Rabies Control
- Rabies in Haiti
- Rabies in popular culture
- World Rabies Day

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External links

- Rabies (https://curlie.org/Health/Conditions_and_Disease/s/Infectious_Diseases/Viral/Rabies/) at Curlie
- "Rabies" (<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved 12 August 2012.
- Virus Pathogen Database and Analysis Resource (ViPR): Rhabdoviridae (<http://www.viprbrc.org/brc/home.do?decorator=rhabdo>)
- OIE's Rabies Portal (<http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/rabies-portal/>)
- Aerophobia and Hydrophobia in Rabies Videos (<http://www.doctorshangout.com/forum/topics/videos-of-aerophobia-and>)
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<p>Classification</p> <p>ICD-10: A82 (http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2016/en#/A82) • ICD-9-CM: 071 (http://www.icd9data.com/getICD9Code.ashx?icd9=071) • MeSH: D011818 (https://www.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/mesh/2015/MB_cgi?field=uid&term=D011818) • DiseasesDB: 11148 (http://www.d</p>
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iseasesdatabase.com/ddb11148.htm)

External resources

MedlinePlus:
001334 (<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001334.htm>) ·
eMedicine:
med/1374 (<https://emedicine.medscape.com/med/1374-overview>) eerg/493 (<http://www.emedicine.com/eerg/topic493.htm#>) ped/1974 (<http://www.emedicine.com/ped/topic1974.htm#>) · **Patient UK:**
Rabies (<https://patient.info/doctor/rabies-pro>) · **Orphanet:**
770 (http://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?lng=en&Expert=770)



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