

## What You Should Know Before You Sign Up to Take the Rabies Vaccine

1. Vaccination against rabies is mandatory for students and for many employees of the SVM. Taking the vaccine should be given priority over other activities. **August 20, August 27, and September 10, 2008, are the only times the vaccine will be given this year, so make your plans accordingly.**
2. Pre-exposure prophylaxis consists of a 3-dose series and the timing of these doses is critical for development of immunity. This means you must take EACH dose when it is scheduled. In emergency situations, I can make arrangements for you to take the vaccine at the Student Health Center if no more than a day or two has passed. If you become ill during the series, contact me for advice. If you miss a dose you will have to retake the entire series, either next year at the SVM if you are a first year student, or from your own physician if you will be seeing animals before next fall.
3. The money you pay is used to buy the vaccine. We cannot give refunds if you do not take the three doses we have purchased for you.
4. If you are now taking corticosteroids, if you have had any of these drugs in the last few weeks, or if you have an immunosuppressive illness, the rabies vaccine may not produce active immunity. If you are in this situation, check with me so special arrangements can be made.
5. Serious reactions to this vaccine are very rare, but as with all vaccines, the medical personnel don't take any chances. Therefore, you will be required to wait in the room for 30 minutes following each injection. Take this into consideration when making your plans.
6. Mild side effects, however, are fairly common. These are similar to those that are experienced with many vaccines and are NOT a reason to discontinue taking the series. Do not be surprised if your arm is sore, reddened, or swollen at the injection site. You may also experience headache, muscle aches, or feel as if you are coming down with the flu. Again, these reactions are NOT considered reason for discontinuing the series. The discomfort generally lasts less than 24 hours and can usually be managed with acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin).
7. Remember, the benefits of the pre-exposure vaccine series far outweigh the risks and inconvenience. And you'll never have to take the series again!

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## Important Information for Rabies Vaccine Recipients

***Please read carefully and keep this page for your records.***

You will be receiving RabAvert® Rabies Vaccine for Human Use. RabAvert is made by Chiron Behring GmbH & Co. It is a sterile freeze-dried vaccine obtained by growing the fixed-virus strain Flury LEP in primary cultures of chicken fibroblasts. RabAvert is the trade name for Purified Chick Embryo Cell Vaccine (PCEC).

In the United States, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends three injections of 1.0 mL each for pre-exposure immunization: one injection on day 0, one on day 7, and one on either day 21 or 28.

### ***Hypersensitivity***

RabAvert is produced in chick embryo cell culture. Persons with a history of anaphylactic, anaphylactoid, or other immediate reactions (e.g. hives, swelling of the mouth and throat, difficulty breathing, hypotension, or shock) subsequent to egg ingestion should not be immunized with this vaccine. At present there is no evidence that persons are at increased risk if they have egg hypersensitivities that are not anaphylactic or anaphylactoid in nature; however, in this case, HDCV rabies vaccines or RVA should be administered. There is no evidence to indicate that persons with allergies to chickens or feathers are at increased risk of reaction to vaccines produced in chick embryo cell culture.

Since reconstituted RabAvert contains traces of processed bovine gelatin, chicken protein, neomycin, chlortetracycline and amphotericin B, there is the possibility of allergic reactions in individuals sensitive to these substances.

### ***Drug Interactions***

Corticosteroids, other immunosuppressive agents, antimalarials and immunosuppressive illnesses can interfere with the development of active immunity after vaccination, and may diminish the protective efficacy of the vaccine. If you have recently taken oral or injectable corticosteroids, it may be advisable to wait until later to take this vaccine series. Discuss your situation with our physician before taking the vaccine if you fall into this category.

### ***Adverse Reactions***

The most common side effects include mild-to-moderate local reactions occurring at the site of injection, including pain, reddening, swelling, and induration. These occur in 30-80% of people receiving the vaccine. Localized lymphadenopathy occurs in about 15% of vaccine recipients. Mild systemic reactions may include headache, myalgia [muscle aches], dizziness, and malaise [general unwellness or vague flu-like feelings]. These may occur in 10 to 50% of vaccine recipients. What this means is that you should not be surprised if the vaccine causes some minor discomfort. These are NOT considered serious side effects and are **NOT** a reason to discontinue the series. Once initiated, rabies prophylaxis should not be interrupted or discontinued because of such local or mild systemic adverse reactions to rabies vaccine. The discomfort is usually of short duration and can be managed by taking acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin), or other pain reliever.

Uncommonly observed adverse events include temperatures above 38°C (100°F), swollen lymph nodes, and gastrointestinal complaints. In rare cases, patients have experienced severe headache, fatigue, circulatory reactions, sweating, chills, monoarthritis and allergic reactions; transient paresthesias and one case of suspected urticaria pigmentosa have also been reported.

Serious side effects are extremely rare. Systemic neurologic and anaphylactic reactions have been reported in less than 0.00001% of people receiving this vaccine. Against a background of 11.8 million doses, there have been 10 cases of encephalitis (1 death) or meningitis, 7 cases of transient paralysis including 2 cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome, 1 case of myelitis, 1 case of retrobulbar neuritis, and 2 cases of suspected multiple sclerosis temporally associated with the use of RabAvert. What this means is that these conditions have occurred a short time following administration of this vaccine but no cause-and-effect relationship has been established. Two cases of anaphylactic shock have been reported.

**Rabies Pre-Exposure Immunization Consent Form**

Check appropriate box:    Year I                      Year II                      Year III                      Year IV Vet Student  
    Graduate Student                      Student Worker  
    Faculty                      Staff                      Acct. # (for employees only) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

I have never had a rabies vaccination and am taking the full three-dose pre-exposure series

I have already had the pre-exposure series and am taking one booster dose

Please print the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Department or Box #: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you allergic to any of the following substances?

Eggs	No	Yes	Neomycin	No	Yes
Bovine gelatin	No	Yes	Chlortetracycline	No	Yes
Chicken	No	Yes	Amphotericin B	No	Yes

Have you ever had an adverse reaction to any vaccine?                      No                      Yes

If yes, give details: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently being treated with any type of corticosteroid or any other immunosuppressive drugs?

No                      Yes (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

If female, are you pregnant?    No                      Yes (due date): \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the information regarding the possible side effects and complications of RabAvert Rabies Vaccine for Human Use. I consent to having the primary vaccination series administered to me.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_                      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Lot #	SHC Use Only	
		Site	Initials

**Make checks payable to "LSU SVM."  
 Bring this completed form with you to orientation.**