

RABIES

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Abstract:

Rabies is a viral disease caused by the rabies virus, which occurs in warm-blooded animals and humans. It is transmitted to humans through the saliva of infected animals when they bite or scratch. Severe progressive damage to the central nervous system is observed when the virus is infected.

Keywords: animals, bite, rabies, virus, dog, rats

According to the World Health Organization, 59,000 people die from rabies every year. 99% of them got sick as a result of rabid dog bites. However, the availability of vaccines for animals and humans has led to a decrease in the death rate of rabies.

The main symptom of rabies in humans is hydrophobia or fear of water. First there is a fear of drinking water, then there are signs of fear at the sight of water and when talking about water. In addition, tremors of swallowing muscles, fear, seizures, interruptions in breathing can be detected.

Seizures are triggered by exposure to sound and light. The patient begins to break everything and throw himself at people, after a "violent" attack, "silent" begins - the initial sign of paralysis. After that, respiratory arrest and death occur.

The time from the bite to the appearance of symptoms is called the incubation period of the disease. Usually, the symptoms of the disease begin to appear 4-12 weeks after a person is infected. However, the incubation period can be several days or up to six years.

Rabies begins with flu-like symptoms, including:

- Fever;
- Muscle weakness;
- Pains.

In addition, a burning sensation may be observed at the bite site.

WHO MAY HAVE RABIES

The rabies virus is transmitted to humans as a result of the saliva of rabid animals biting or scratching the wound. Infection can also occur when the virus enters the mucous membrane or open wounds through other means. The virus can only be transmitted from animal to human or from animal to animal. Although the probability of its transmission from person to person is very low, several such cases have been recorded in history.

When a person is infected, the virus spreads to the brain through nerve fibers. The virus starts multiplying rapidly in the brain. This activity causes severe inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, and the patient's condition quickly deteriorates, leading to death from asphyxiation and cardiac arrest. If the injury is in the head or neck area, the damage to the brain and spinal cord starts faster. If the injury is in the neck, it is necessary to call for medical help as soon as possible.

DISEASE SPREAD

The main symptom of animal rabies is a change in its behavior: a good pet becomes aggressive, wild and ready to bite.

Both wild animals and domestic animals can spread the rabies virus. The main causes of the disease include the following animals:

- Dogs;
- Bats;
- Cats;
- Cows;
- Goat;
- Horses;
- Rabbits;
- Beavers;
- Wolf;
- Monkey;
- Skunks.



RISK GROUP

For most people, the risk of contracting rabies is relatively low. At the same time, there is a group of people who are at high risk of infection. This includes the following categories of people:

- Living in an area where bats live a lot;
- Travel to developing countries;
- Living in rural areas with greater exposure to wild animals and lack of vaccinations and prophylactic treatment with immunoglobulin;
- Often go to the mountains for recreation and contact with wild animals;
- Be under 15 years of age (rabies is common in this age group).

TREATMENT OF RABIES

Until 2005, effective methods of treating rabies were not known to science, when clinical symptoms of the disease began to appear. Often, it was necessary to limit oneself to symptomatic means to alleviate the painful condition. Movement agitation was suppressed with sedatives, and seizures with curare-like drugs. Respiratory disorders were compensated by tracheostomy and connecting the patient to an artificial breathing apparatus.

PREVENTION

Rabies is preventable. Here are some simple tips to avoid contracting rabies:

Getting vaccinated against rabies before traveling to developing countries, working in close contact with animals, or working in a laboratory studying the pathogenic virus.

Vaccination of domestic animals.

Report feral dogs to animal control.

Avoid contact with wild animals.

Avoiding the entry of bats near the house and into the house.

The vaccine was discovered by Louis Pasteur in 1881. In 1885, the vaccine was tried on a child bitten by a dog. It is noted that the child is not sick.

WORLD RABIES DAY

World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on September 28. It is included in the list of international days of the UN. The choice of this date is related to the day of Louis Pasteur's death.

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