

**Date of revision of the package leaflet**  
September 2006

**Additional Information**

This vaccine conforms to the World Health Organisation (WHO) requirements and contains no preservative.

The antibody concentration achieved by the immunisation falls gradually; booster doses are therefore required to maintain immunity.

All immunisations and all immunoglobulins administered should be entered by the doctor, with the name of the preparation (proprietary name) and Lot. No., in the international immunisation record. Optimal immunity will only be conferred if the full immunisation schedule is completed.



**Package leaflet**

**RABIPUR®**

**Active substance:** Inactivated rabies virus

**Composition**

One vial of powder and solvent for solution for injection for one immunisation dose (1 ml) contains: inactivated rabies virus (strain flury LEP), potency ≥ 2.5 IU.

Host system: primary chicken fibroblast cell cultures

Other ingredients:

TRIS-(hydroxymethyl)-aminomethane, sodium chloride, EDTA (Titrplex III), potassium-L-glutamate, polygeline, saccharose, water for injections

**Presentation and contents by weight, volume or number of items**

Powder and solvent for solution for injection  
After dissolution of the white lyophilisate (powder), a clear colourless solution is obtained.

*Please find enclosed our full range of pack/container sizes. Please note that some items listed may not be available in all countries.*

Pack contains:

- One vial of lyophilisate for one immunisation dose (1 ml)
- One ampoule containing 1 ml water for injections

Pack contains:

- One vial of lyophilisate for one immunisation dose (1 ml)
- One ampoule containing 1 ml water for injections
- One disposable syringe

Pack contains:

- Five vials, each with lyophilisate for one immunisation dose (5 x 1 ml)
- Five ampoules, each containing 1 ml water for injections
- Five disposable syringes

Pack contains:

- 30 vials, each with lyophilisate for 1 immunisation dose (30 x 1 ml)

Pack contains:

- 30 ampoules, each containing 1 ml water for injections
- Disposable syringes are provided separately.

**Substance or indication category**

Vaccines

**Name and address of the holder of the marketing authorisation**

Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics GmbH & Co. KG  
PO Box 1630  
D-35006 Marburg  
Germany

**Indications**

Active immunisation against rabies.

a) Pre-exposure immunisation (preventative, prior to exposure):

Immunisation prior to possible infection with rabies, particularly for vets, veterinary medicine students, animal keepers, hunters, forestry workers, animal handlers, butchers, personnel in rabies research laboratories etc., or prior to visits to areas in which rabies is endemic (rabies infected areas).

b) Post-exposure treatment (after exposure):

Treatment after contact with animals which are rabid or suspected to be rabid, or after contact with an inoculated rabies carcass.

For further details, see enclosed tables.

**Contraindications**

a) Immunisation prior to exposure

It is advisable to avoid pre-exposure (prophylactic) immunisation in individuals with acute disorders requiring treatment.

If complications arise after vaccination, this should be considered a contraindication for further administration of the same vaccine, until the causes of the complications have been clarified.

In individuals with known allergy to one of the constituents of Rabipur, use of this vaccine is contraindicated.

b) Treatment after exposure

In view of the fact that rabies is a fatal disease, there are no contraindications to immunisation after suspected exposure (see section "Special precautions for use").

**Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

No cases of harm attributable to use of this vaccine during pregnancy have been observed to date in mothers or children.

It is not known whether Rabipur passes into breast milk.

**Table 1: Appropriate rabies treatment based on different categories of exposure**

Exposure category	Type of exposure		Treatment schedule
	Contact with a rabid or suspected rabid* wild or domestic animal	Contact with an inoculated animal carcass	
I	- Touching/feeding animals, but clearly no contact with their saliva; patient's skin undamaged prior to and during contact	- Touching inoculated carcass; skin intact	No treatment necessary. In cases of uncertainty, immunisation to be administered as per schedule B (Table 2)
II	- Animal has nibbled or licked exposed skin of the patient - Contact with saliva - Superficial, non-bleeding, scratches made by the animal, with the exception of scratches on the head, neck, shoulder region, arms and hands (see exposure grade III)	- Touching inoculated carcass; skin damaged	Immediate treatment as specified in schedule B. In cases of uncertainty, simultaneous administration of vaccine and immunoglobulin (active and passive immunisation) should be administered as specified in schedule C (Table 2). If the animal proves to be healthy after examination, it is advisable to continue treatment as in schedule A. Check patient's immunity against tetanus.
III	- All bites - Bleeding scratches - All scratches on the head, neck, shoulder region, arms, and hands - Contact of patient's mucous membrane with animal saliva (e.g. licking, spray)	- Contact of inoculated carcass with mucous membrane or fresh skin wound	Initiate immediate simultaneous administration of vaccine and immunoglobulin (active and passive immunisation) as specified in schedule C (Table 2). If the animal proves to be healthy after examination, it is advisable to continue treatment as in schedule A. Check patient's immunity against tetanus.

(Based on the 1997 WHO guidelines)

\* All animals exhibiting abnormal behaviour in an area which has been officially declared as rabies endemic area must be considered potentially rabid. The corpses of rabid animals can also transmit rabies.

**Note:** Where indicated, prophylactic immune treatment should be given as soon as possible!

**Table 2: Pre-exposure immunisation and post-exposure treatment of individuals with no or inadequate\* immunity**

Schedule A Immunisation prior to exposure	Schedule B Immunisation after exposure	Schedule C Simultaneous prophylaxis after exposure
One injection of Rabipur i.m. on days: 0, 7, and 21 or 28	One injection of Rabipur i.m. on days: 0, 3, 7, 14, 28 (5-dose schedule) <b>or</b> One dose of Rabipur to be given into the right deltoid muscle and one dose into the left deltoid muscle on day 0; and one dose to be applied into the deltoid muscle on days 7 and 21 (2-1-1 regimen). In small children the vaccine is to be given into the thighs.	Give Rabipur as in schedule B + 1 x 20 IU/kg BW human rabies immunoglobulin** or 40 IU/kg BW equine rabies immunoglobulin simultaneously with the first dose of Rabipur. If no rabies immunoglobulin is available at the time of the first vaccination, it must be administered no later than 7 days after the first vaccination.

\* Persons who have received less than three immunisation doses, or a vaccine of doubtful potency or origin

\*\* Observe manufacturer's instructions!

No risk to the breast-feeding infant has been described to date.

It is advisable to carefully weigh expected benefits against potential risks prior to pre-exposure (prophylactic) immunisation with Rabipur during pregnancy and breast-feeding.

**Special precautions for use**

There is not, as a rule, an increased risk during immunisation with Rabipur in subjects who state that they are "allergic to chicken protein" or who exhibit a positive reaction in the chicken protein skin test.

In the extremely rare cases in which subjects have reacted with clinical symptoms such as urticaria (nettle rash), lip and epiglottis oedema (inflammatory swelling of the lips and larynx region), laryngo- or bronchospasm (spasm of the glottis or bronchial muscles), a fall in blood pressure, or shock after eating chicken protein, the immunisation should be conducted only under close clinical monitoring, and with the appropriate facilities for emergency treatment available.

Rabipur contains polygelatine and may contain residual amounts of the antibiotics amphotericin B, chlortetracycline, neomycin and this could potentially cause allergic reactions.

In patients with known hypersensitivity to constituents of the vaccine receiving post-exposure treatment, appropriate medical treatment addressing anaphylactic shock should always be on-hand during vaccination, or alternatively another equivalent modern cell culture rabies vaccine should be used.

Minor infections (even with subfebrile temperatures  $\leq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) are **not** a contraindication, nor is possible contact with individuals suffering from infectious diseases.

**Do not administer by intravascular injection!**

If the vaccine is inadvertently administered intravascularly (in a blood vessel), there is a risk of adverse reactions, with shock potentially occurring in extreme cases. Appropriate emergency measures to prevent shock must be taken immediately.

Do not mix vaccine with rabies immunoglobulin in the same syringe.

After contact with animals which are suspected carriers of rabies, it is essential to observe the following procedures:

**Immediate wound treatment**

First aid: In order to remove as much of the rabies virus as possible, immediately cleanse the wound with soap and flush thoroughly with water. Then treat with alcohol (70%) or an iodine tincture.

Where possible, wounds should not be closed with a suture, or only sutured to secure apposition. Prophylaxis against tetanus should be administered when necessary!

In cases in which simultaneous administration of vaccine and immunoglobulin is indicated, as much of the recommended dose of human rabies immunoglobulin as is anatomically feasible should be applied as deeply as possible in and around the wound. Any remaining immunoglobulin should be injected intramuscularly at a site distant from the site of vaccine administration, preferably intragluteally (in the gluteal muscle).

**Interactions**

In patients receiving immunosuppressive therapy (treatment which reduces the defence system of the body), or with congenital or acquired immunodeficiency, the response to the vaccination may be reduced or uncertain (see also "Dosage and administration"). Administration of immunosuppressive medication and antimalarial compounds during treatment after exposure should be avoided.

Rabies immunoglobulins should only be administered at the recommended dose. The immunoglobulins should neither be given at higher nor lower doses than those recommended, nor should they be repeatedly administered, as this may reduce the effects of rabies vaccine given at the same time.

Time intervals to be observed before other vaccinations are given

It is not necessary to observe an interval with regard to other vaccinations.

**Dosage and administration**

Dosage

With Rabipur, it is possible to vaccinate persons of any age group. The recommended single dose is 1 ml.

PRE-EXPOSURE IMMUNISATION (prior to exposure)

Immunisation according to schedule A (see Table 2).

One vaccination (1 ml) on days: 0, 7 and 21 or 28.

BOOSTER DOSES

International recommendations (WHO, ACIP-US) are as follows:

- For persons at continuous risk, evaluate the rabies virus neutralizing antibody titres by RFFIT, every 6 months.
- For persons at frequent risk, the WHO recommends antibody titre estimations every year, whereas the ACIP advocates testing every 2 years.

If titres are below 0.5 IU/ml at any time, one booster dose should be administered.

Considering the long term satisfactory antibody titres observed with Rabipur, if serological tests cannot be conducted due to cost considerations or inaccessible medical facilities, a booster dose one year after primary immunisation followed by one dose every 5 years would be advisable.

POST-EXPOSURE TREATMENT (after exposure)

Begin with the course of immunisation immediately. For "immediate wound treatment", see "Special precaution for use!"

For indications for use, see Table 1.

- ① *Unimmunised or incompletely immunised individuals* (including those who have previously received fewer than 3 doses of vaccine, or who have received a vaccine of doubtful potency or origin):

Treatment according to schedule B or C (see also Table 2).

One single dose of vaccine on days 0, 3, 7, 14, 28 (5-dose schedule).

As an alternative to the above mentioned 5-dose schedule, the World Health Organisation (WHO) also recommends the abbreviated 2-1-1 regimen as being effective: Two doses on day 0 (one dose given into the right and one dose into the left deltoid muscle [upper-arm muscle] or, in small children, one dose each into the anterolateral region of the right and left thigh), and one dose each on days 7 and 21 (see also Table 2, schedule B/C).

In all injuries caused by rabid animals or animals suspected to be rabid, or after contact between the saliva of these animals and the mucous membranes or damaged skin of the patient (see Table 1), the 5-dose schedule or 2-1-1 schedule along with additional passive immunisation are required (see Table 2, schedule C). 20 IU/kg bodyweight (BW) of human rabies immunoglobulin or 40 IU/kg of equine rabies immunoglobulin are to be given once at the time of the first vaccination. As much of the rabies immunoglobulin preparation as is anatomically feasible should be applied as deeply as possible in and around the wound. Any remaining rabies immunoglobulin should be administered intramuscularly (preferably intragluteally) at a site distant from the site of the vaccine injection.

If rabies immunoglobulin is not available at the time of the first vaccination it must be administered no later than 7 days after the first vaccination since later administration would result in interference with antibody formation.

Rabies immunoglobulin should only be administered at the recommended dose.

The recommended immunoglobulin dose should neither be increased, nor decreased, nor should rabies immunoglobulin administration be repeated (for further details refer to the manufacturer's information).

**The immunisation schedule must be followed exactly, even if considerable time has elapsed since exposure.**

In subjects at particularly high risk of contracting rabies infection (e.g. with multiple wounds, particularly on the head or other markedly innervated parts of the body), or for those who have delayed initiation of treatment, the patient must be vaccinated on each of the days 0, 3, 7, 14, 28. Additionally the initial immunisation dose should be doubled: a single dose of vaccine should be given by injection as soon as possible after exposure into the right deltoid and another single dose into the left deltoid muscle, or in small children, a single dose given into the anterolateral region of the right thigh with another single dose given into the left thigh.

② **Previously fully immunised individuals:**

Patients who have previously received a complete course of primary immunisation (pre- or post-exposure) should receive two doses of Rabipur; one on each of days 0 and 3, respectively. This is independent of the interval to the last immunisation. No administration of rabies immunoglobulin is required.

③ **Immunocompromised individuals:**

Patients receiving immunosuppressive therapy, or who have congenital or acquired immunodeficiency, should be vaccinated once on each of the days 0, 3, 7, 14, 28. In addition, the initial immunisation dose (day 0) should be doubled with a single dose of vaccine being administered as soon as possible after exposure into each of the right and left deltoid muscles (upper-arm muscle) or, in small children, into the anterolateral region of each of the right and left thighs.

If immunocompromised patients (with impaired defence system) are treated after exposure to rabies, it is advisable that the antibody titre be measured 14 days after the first dose. If a titre of at least 0.5 IU/ml, which is considered adequate to confer protection, is not present, a dose of vaccine should be immediately administered into each upper-arm (or into each thigh in the case of small children). Depending on the immunisation status of these patients, additional doses may be necessary to achieve appropriate antibody titres in serum (for information on immunoglobulin administration see Section ① "Unimmunised or incompletely immunised individuals").

Method and duration of administration

The lyophilisate should be reconstituted immediately using the diluent supplied, and carefully agitated prior to injection. The reconstituted vaccine should be used immediately. Rabipur must be given by intramuscular injection into the deltoid muscle (upper-arm muscle), or into the anterolateral region of the thigh in small children. The vaccine must not be given by intragluteal (in the gluteal muscle) injection.

**The vaccine must not be administered by intravascular (in a blood vessel) injection!**

**Undesirable effects**

If you develop side effects, especially side effects which are not mentioned in this package leaflet, please inform your doctor or pharmacist.

Mild reactions at the injection site, such as pain, redness, swelling or induration are possible. More marked local reactions, fever, headache, myalgia, lymph node swelling, fatigue, arthritis, and gastrointestinal disorders may occasionally occur. Rare are circulatory reactions, sweating, chills, paraesthesias and allergic reactions; these require treatment only in exceptional cases (see section "Special precautions for use").

There have been isolated reports of inflammatory and demyelinating neurological disorders, such as progressive ascending paralysis (Guillain-Barré syndrome) or optic neuritis in individual cases. On the basis of currently available data, the possibility cannot be completely excluded that in rare cases immunisation may induce an acute episode in patients with an autoimmune disorder (such as multiple sclerosis) or with an appropriate genetic predisposition. However, there is no evidence of an increased frequency of autoimmune disorders after immunisation.

**Storage and shelf life**

Rabipur should be stored at +2 to +8 °C.

Rabipur should not be used after the expiry date printed on the pack and container.

The vaccine should be used immediately after reconstitution.

**Store out of reach of children!**