

Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE): Rabies Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

ACIP WG meeting October 29, 2020 Agam Rao, MD CAPT, US Public Health Service Co-Lead rabies ACIP WG

Assumptions made by WG based on background presentations

- Rabies is 100% fatal
- Rabies vaccines are highly efficacious
- Multiple layers of preventing human rabies (e.g., PrEP, animal vaccinations for rabies, PPE while working with rabies virus, PEP)
- Goal of PrEP
 - Recognized exposures: Anamnestic response from PrEP + shortened PEP series
 - Unrecognized exposures: Sustained high titers such that "protection" provided by PrEP alone even if PEP is not administered
- ID data can be used to inform IM recommendations
- Increase in titer cut-off to 0.5 IU/mL has advantages and one potential disadvantage: booster could be indicated for a titer value that would have been considered acceptable in past

Risk category	Nature of Risk	Typical Population	Disease Biogeography	Primary Immunogenicity PrEP.	EP. immunogenicity	
#1: Elevated risk for unrecognized and recognized exposures and	Risk of virus exposure is continuous. Exposure is often in high concentrations and may go unrecognized. Direct and indirect <u>exposures.*</u>	Laboratory personnel working with live rabies virus in research, diagnostic, or vaccine production capacities (e.g., necropsy of suspect rabid animal or working with rabies virus cultures)	Laboratory			
#2: Elevated risk of both unrecognized and recognized exposures	Risk of virus exposure is episodic. Exposure typically recognized but could be unrecognized and is greater than for those in the Infrequent risk group. Direct exposures and rarely indirect exposures	Persons who frequently handle bats or at frequent risk for <u>coming into contact with</u> bats because of entrance to high density bat environments (e.g., bat biologist)	All geographic regions where bats are a reservoir for rabies**	Goal: Same primary	Goal: Titers at different intervals and	
#3: Elevated risk of recognized exposures	Risk of virus exposure greater than population at large. Exposure is a recognized one. Direct exposures.	 Persons who work with animals Animal care professionals (e.g., veterinarians, technicians, animal control officers) Others who repeatedly handle terrestrial reservoir species (e.g., wildlife biologists, rehabilitators, and trappers) Spelunkers Veterinary students Short-term / volunteer hands-on animal care workers where increased risk is expected for short time periods* 	<u>All geographic</u> regions where terrestrial and non- terrestrial mammals are reservoirs for rabies	series for 3 risk groups	potentially for all 3 risk groups	
		Travelers who will be performing activities (e.g., occupational or recreational) that put them at increased risk for exposure to rabid dogs and may have difficulty getting access to safe PEP (e.g., in rural area). Children may receive PrEP depending on the country to which they will travel (see CDC Traveler's Health destination pages)*	 Geographic regions internationally with canine rabies 			
#4: Low risk of exposure / (i.e., general population)	Risk of virus exposure is uncommon. Bite or non-bite exposure	U.S. population at large	Nationwide	 No pre-exposure prophylaxis No serologic monitoring 	n/a	

*Direct exposures are bite and non-bite (e.g., contamination of fresh open wound or mucous membranes with saliva), Indirect exposures (i.e., droplet)

Expr questions about the disease biogeography of the region where an exposure occurred, please contact your local or state health department

Risk category	Nature of Risk	Typical Population	Disease Biogeography!	Primary Immunogenicity PrEP	Long-term immunogenicity
#1: Elevated risk for unrecognized and recognized exposures and	Risk of virus exposure is continuous. Exposure is often in high concentrations and may go unrecognized. Direct and indirect <u>exposures.*</u>	Laboratory personnel working with live rabies virus in research, diagnostic, or vaccine production capacities (e.g., necropsy of suspect rabid animal or working with rabies virus cultures)	Laboratory		
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#4: Low risk of exposure / (i.e., general population)	Risk of virus exposure is uncommon. Bite or non-bite exposure	U.S. population at large	Nationwide	 No pre-exposure prophylaxis No serologic monitoring 	n/a

*Direct exposures are bite and non-bite (e.g., contamination of fresh open wound or mucous membranes with saliva), Indirect exposures (i,e.,droolet)

For questions about the disease biogeography of the region where an exposure occurred, please contact your local or state health department

Policy question #1

Should a 2 dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series involving HDCV* or PCECV⁺ IM [0, 7 days] replace the 3 dose series IM [0, 7, 21/28 days] for all those for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended?

	Policy question: Should a two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series involving HDCV* or PCECV+ IM [0, 7 days] replace the 3 dose series IM[0, 7, 21/28 days] for all those for whom rabies vaccine PreP is recommended?
Population	Persons for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended

	Policy question: Should a two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series involving HDCV* or PCECV+ IM [0, 7 days] replace the 3 dose series IM[0, 7, 21/28 days] for all those for whom rabies vaccine PreP is recommended?
Population	Persons for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended
Intervention	[0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Comparison	[0, 7, 21/28 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule

	Policy question: Should a two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series involving HDCV* or PCECV+ IM [0, 7 days] replace the 3 dose series IM[0, 7, 21/28 days] for all those for whom rabies vaccine PreP is recommended?
Population	Persons for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended
Intervention	[0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Comparison	[0, 7, 21/28 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Outcome	

Critical outcomes

- Efficacy
 - Primary immunogenicity: Peak immunogenicity after completion of the primary vaccine series (i.e., at 2-4 weeks after completion of the primary series)
- Safety
 - None*

*adverse events were not included as an outcome because these vaccines have a track record for safety over many decades; summary data about the safety was presented from RCTs since the 2008 ACIP publication and also, from VAERS data and showed no change from previous)

	Policy question: Should a two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series involving HDCV* or PCECV+ IM [0, 7 days] replace the 3 dose series IM[0, 7, 21/28 days] for all those for whom rabies vaccine PreP is recommended?
Population	Persons for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended
Intervention	[0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Comparison	[0, 7, 21/28 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Outcome	Primary immunogenicity

Risk category	Nature of Risk	Typical Population	Disease Biogeography	Primary Immunogenicity <u>PrEP</u>	Long-term immunogenicity
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For questions about the disease biogeography of the region where an exposure occurred, please contact your local or state health department

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#4: Low risk of	Risk of virus exposure is	may have difficulty getting access to safe PEP (e.g., in rural area). Children may receive PrEP depending on the country to which they will travel (see CDC Traveler's Health destination pages). U.S. population at large	internationally with canine rabies	No pre-exposure	n/a
exposure / (i.e., general population)	uncommon. Bite or non-bite exposure			 prophylaxis No serologic monitoring 	

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Goal for Unrecognized exposures: Ensure titers are persistently high in case of PEP not being sought

Goal for recognized exposures: Ensure ability to mount an anamnestic response; titers need not be persistently high for anamnestic response

Direct exposures are bite and non-bite (e.g., contamination of fresh open wound or mucous membranes with saliva), Indirect exposures (i.e. droplet)

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Ideal proposal:

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#4: Low risk of exposure / (i.e., general population)	Risk of virus exposure is uncommon. Bite or non-bite exposure	U.S. population at large	Nationwide	 No pre-exposure prophylaxis No serologic monitoring 	n/a	

*Direct exposures are bite and non-bite (e.g., contamination of fresh open wound or mucous membranes with saliva), Indirect exposures (i.e., droplet)

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Ensuring long-term immunogenicity for those in risk group #3: titer check

- Data indicates that titer at the 1 year time point is indicative of long-term titers and ability to mount an anamnestic response
- In the absence of data confirming that the [0, 7 days] series, provides immunogenicity many years later, titers at 1 year time point indicate a person's longterm immunogenicity

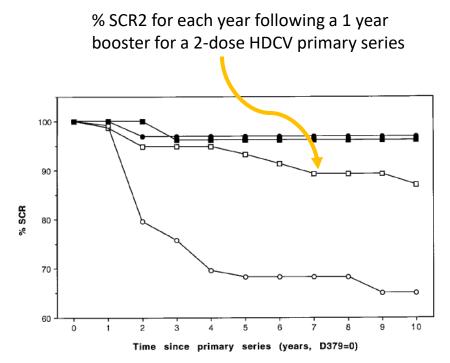


Figure: Evolution of seroconversion rate (% SCR) from day 379 (2 weeks after 1 year booster) to year 10

New data for titer check

- Data included in GRADE analysis shows primary immunogenicity is at least up to 3 years
- Taken together, WG felt titer value at any point during 1-3 years could be checked once to ensure long-term immunogenicity
- Booster is recommended if titers <0.5 IU/mL at the titer check</p>
- No further titer checks indicated because persons in this risk group have only recognized exposures

Ideal proposal:

Risk category	Nature of Risk	Typical Population	Disease Biogeography	Primary Immunogenicity <u>PrEP</u>	Long-term immunogenicity	
#1: Elevated risk for unrecognized and recognized exposures and	Risk of virus exposure is continuous. Exposure is often in high concentrations and may go unrecognized. Direct and indirect <u>exposures.*</u>	Laboratory personnel working with live rabies virus in research, diagnostic, or vaccine production capacities (e.g., necropsy of suspect rabid animal or working with rabies virus cultures)	Laboratory		Titers at regular intervals	Long-term immunogenicity
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#4: Low risk of exposure / (i.e., general population)	Risk of virus exposure is uncommon. Bite or non-bite exposure	U.S. population at large	Nationwide	 No pre-exposure prophylaxis No serologic monitoring 	n/a	

*Direct exposures are bite and non-bite (e.g., contamination of fresh open wound or mucous membranes with saliva), Indirect exposures (i.e., droplet)

Expr questions about the disease biogeography of the region where an exposure occurred, please contact your local or state health department

Policy question #2

Should an IM booster dose of rabies vaccine (*PCECV or +HDCV) be recommended as an alternative to a titer check no sooner than day 21 and no later than 3 years after the two-dose pre-exposure (PrEP) series IM [0, 7 days] for those in the #3 risk category who receive PrEP?

	Policy question: Should an IM booster dose of rabies vaccine (*PCECV or +HDCV) be recommended as an alternative to a titer check no sooner than day 21 and no later than 3 years after the two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series IM [0, 7 days] for those in the #3 risk category of people who receive PrEP?
Population	Persons in #3 risk category
Intervention	6-12 months rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Comparison	No rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Outcome	Duration of effectiveness of immunogenicity

*Human diploid cell vaccine

	Policy question: Should an IM booster dose of rabies vaccine (*PCECV or *HDCV) be recommended as an alternative to a titer check no sooner than day 21 and no later than 3 years after the two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series IM [0, 7 days] for those in the #3 risk category of people who receive PrEP?
Population	Persons in the #3 risk category for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended
Intervention	Day 21- year 3 rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Comparison	No rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule

Outcome Duration of effectiveness of immunogenicity

*Human diploid cell vaccine

	Policy question: Should an IM booster dose of rabies vaccine (*PCECV or *HDCV) be recommended as an alternative to a titer check no sooner than day 21 and no later than 3 years after the two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series IM [0, 7 days] for those in the #3 risk category of people who receive PrEP?
Population	Persons in the #3 risk category for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended
Intervention	Day 21- year 3 rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Comparison	No rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Outcome	

*Human diploid cell vaccine

Critical outcomes

- Efficacy
 - Long-term immunogenicity (i.e., ability to mount an anamnestic response in response to a challenge like a rabies virus exposure or a booster dose of vaccine)
- Safety
 - None*

*adverse events were not included as an outcome because these vaccines have a track record for safety over many decades; summary data about the safety was presented from RCTs since the 2008 ACIP publication and also, from VAERS data and showed no change from previous)

	Policy question: Should an IM booster dose of rabies vaccine (*PCECV or *HDCV) be recommended as an alternative to a titer check no sooner than day 21 and no later than 3 years after the two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series IM [0, 7 days] for those in the #3 risk category of people who receive PrEP?
Population	Persons in the #3 risk category for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended
Intervention	Day 21- year 3 rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Comparison	No rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Outcome	Long-term immunogenicity

*Human diploid cell vaccine

Evidence Retrieval

- Literature search of multiple biomedical and interdisciplinary bibliographic databases including: Medline, Embase, Cochrane Library, and WHO Index Medicus
- A broad and rigorous strategy incorporating terms related to the concept of preexposure vaccination against rabies virus using HDCV or PCECV vaccines
- Search was limited to 1965-2018 and without language restrictions to identify potentially relevant studies
- Results were compiled in an Endnote Library and duplicate records were removed
- Search updated through December 31, 2019 to screen recent records not captured in the original search

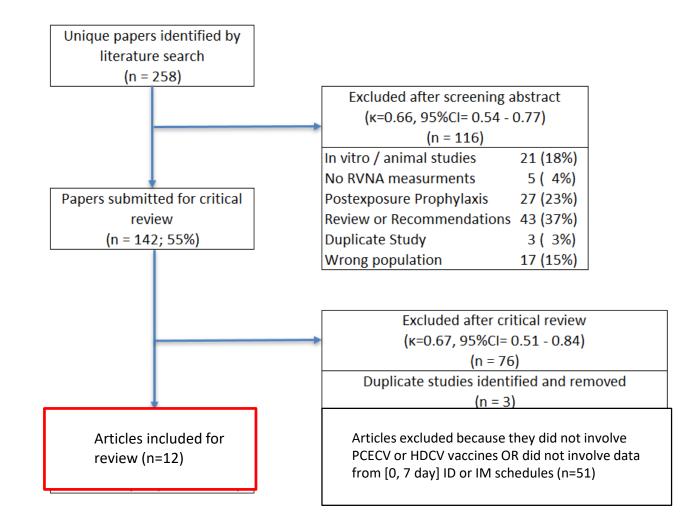
Evidence Retrieval

Records were included if they presented data on human rabies vaccines **and**:

- Involved immunocompetent adults 18 years of age or older^a
- Included data for intervention of interest (HDCV or PCECV rabies vaccine, preexposure, intradermal [1-site or 2 site] or intramuscular [1-site], any PFU)
- Included data relevant to the outcome measures being assessed
- Planned categorization of primary data into comparative or single-arm studies; randomized control trials, prospective or retrospective cohort, case-control, crosssectional studies ^b

- a. Data from animal or *in vitro* studies or data from humans <18 years of age were excluded
- b. Records that did not provide primary data (e.g. literature reviews or summaries, editorials, commentaries, opinions, clinical trial registries or protocols) and case reports or case studies were excluded

Study Selection



GRADE Evidence Assessment Criteria

- Initial evidence type (certainty level) determined by study design
 - Initial evidence type 1 (high certainty): A body of evidence from randomized controlled trials
 - Initial evidence type 3 (low certainty): A body of evidence from observational studies
- Risk of bias: Can include failure to conceal allocation, failure to blind, loss to follow-up. Risk of bias may vary across outcomes.
- Inconsistency: Criteria for evaluating include similarity of point estimates, extent of overlap of confidence intervals, and statistical criteria including tests of heterogeneity and I²
- Indirectness: Considers the generalizability of the evidence to the original PICO components (i.e. pre-exposure immunization in the U.S. population)
- Imprecision: Considers the fragility of the relative and absolute effect measures based on the interpretation of the 95% CIs and the optimal information size.
- Other considerations: Includes publication bias or indications of dose-response gradient, large or very large magnitude of effect, and opposing residual confounding.

Overall evidence types (Certainty levels)

- Type 1 (high certainty): We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect.
- Type 2 (moderate certainty): We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different.
- **Type 3 (low certainty):** Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: The true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect.
- **Type 4 (very low certainty):** We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect

Not measuring how well the individual studies were conducted, but how much confidence we have in the estimates of effect across each outcome

Evidence Profile Notes

- GRADE was conducted as it pertains to the specific population, intervention, comparison, and outcome (PICO) of interest
- Randomized control trial (RCT) refers to a trial which randomizes participants to an active intervention or a placebo or unvaccinated comparator arm
- Observational studies (Obs) refer to one-arm studies, studies for whom participants were not randomized, or studies that did not provide disaggregated data to allow for the comparison between randomized arms
- Evidence was considered observational if only data from the study arm(s) involving one of the 2 US vaccines were included

Outcome for PrEP policy question #1

Table 1: PrEP policy question #1

	Policy question: Should a two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series involving HDCV* or PCECV+ IM [0, 7 days] replace the 3 dose series IM[0, 7, 21/28 days] for all those for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended?
Population	Persons for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended
Intervention	[0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Comparison	[0, 7, 21/28 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Outcome	Primary immunogenicity

Table 3a: Summary of Randomized Control Trial Studies Reporting Outcome

Authors last	Age (years)	N N		Vaccine	Risk Ratio	Study limitations	
name, pub year		intervention comparison		[95% CI]		(Risk of Bias)	
Endy, 2019	Mean 32.4,	22	24	PCEC, IM, ID	1.00	Some concerns ¹	
	Range 18 - 59				[0.89, 1.12]		
Soentjens, 2019	Median 29.0,	242	240	HDCV, ID	1.00	Some concerns ²	
	Range NR				[0.99, 1.01]		

¹Allocation concealment not reported. Study did not blind participants or healthcare personnel; however, unlikely that co-interventions would have influenced the outcome.

²Method of randomization and allocation not reported. Study did not blind participants or healthcare personnel; however, unlikely that cointerventions would have influenced the outcome.

Forest plot for two RCTs

	2-dos	se	3-dos	se		Risk Ratio	Risk Ratio
Study or Subgroup	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	M-H, Random, 95% Cl	M-H, Random, 95% Cl
1.1.1 IM							
Endy 2019	12	12	12	12	0.3%	1.00 [0.86, 1.17]	
Subtotal (95% CI)		12		12	0.3%	1.00 [0.86, 1.17]	
Total events	12		12				
Heterogeneity: Not ap	plicable						
Test for overall effect:	Z = 0.00 ((P = 1.0)0)				
1.1.2 ID							
Endy 2019	10	10	12	12	0.2%	1.00 [0.84, 1.18]	
Soentjens 2019	242	242	240	240		1.00 [0.99, 1.01]	
Subtotal (95% CI)		252		252	99.7%	1.00 [0.99, 1.01]	▼
Total events	252		252				
Heterogeneity: Tau ² =	0.00; Chi	^z = 0.01	0, df = 1 (P = 1.0	0); I ^z = 0%	, 0	
Test for overall effect: .	Z = 0.00 ((P = 1.0	0)				
Total (95% CI)		264		264	100.0%	1.00 [0.99, 1.01]	•
Total events	264		264				J
Heterogeneity: Tau ² =		i ^z = ∩ ∩I		P = 1 0	$(1) \cdot \mathbf{I}^{\mathbf{Z}} = 0.9$	ń	
Test for overall effect:	=					•	0.85 0.9 1 1.1 1.2
Test for subgroup diffe		•		1 (P =	1 00) I ² =	0%	Favours 3-dose Favours 2-dose
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Table 3b: Summary of Observational Studies Reporting Outcome

Authors last name, pub year	Age (years)	N intervention	N comparison	Vaccine	Risk Ratio [95% CI] ¹	Study limitations (Study quality ²)
Ajjan, 1989	Mean 22, Range 19-41	72	69	HDCV, IM	1.00 [0.97, 1.03]	9/9 No concerns
Arora, 2004	Mean 26.2, NR	44	44	HDCV, IM	1.00 [0.96, 1.04]	9/9 No concerns
Briggs, 1996	NR	146	146	HDCV, IM	1.00 [0.99, 1.01]	9/9 No concerns
Cramer 2016	Mean 36.7, SD 12.9	371	364	PCEC, IM	0.99 [0.98, 1.01] ⁴	7/9 Minimal concerns
Hacibektasoglu, 1992	Mean 20, Range 18 - 24	30	30	HDCV, IM	0.90 [0.79, 1.03]	9/9 No concerns
Jaijaroensup, 1999	NR, Range 17 - 22	138	129	PCEC, IM, ID	0.94 [0.87, 1.02] ⁴	9/9 No concerns
Kitala, 1990	NR	37	37	HDCV, IM	1.00 [0.95, 1.05]	8/9 Minimal concerns
Recuenco, 2017	Median 41.0, Range 20 - 62	60	59	PCEC, IM, ID	1.00 [0.96, 1.05] ⁴	9/9 No concerns
Sabchareon, 1999	Mean 10, SD 1.3 ³	190	190	HDCV, IM	1.00 [0.99, 1.01]	7/9 Minimal concerns
Vodopija, 1986	NR	49	46	HDCV, PCEC, IM	1.00 [0.94, 1.06] ⁴	9/9 No concerns

¹Data from observational studies, where intervention and comparison data were taken from the same people at different time points, were analyzed using M-H Risk Ratio random effects procedure. Due to unavailable raw data on pairing, a matched analysis was not possible.

²Study quality for observational studies was assessed using the Newcastle Ottawa Scale.

³Age for total study population was not reported in this paper. Numbers in this cell are from the study arm from which data were extracted.

⁴Studies contained multiple arms relative to the analysis. Risk ratio reflects pooled analysis from eligible arms.

Forest plot for 10 observational studies

Study or Subgroup	2 dos Events		3 dos Events		Weight	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% Cl	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% Cl
2.1.1 IM	Lycina	Total	Lycins	Total	Weight	m-n, Random, 35% Cr	
2.1.1 IM Ajjan 1989 IM Arora 2004 IM Briggs1996 IM Cramer 2016 Rabies IM Cramer 2016 Rabies+JE IM Hacibektasoglu 1992 IM Jaijaroensup 1999 A IM Kitala 1990 IM Recuenco 2017 IM Sabchareon 1999 IM Vodopija 1986 g1 IM Vodopija 1986 g3 IM Subtotal (95% CI) Total events	72 44 146 208 159 27 25 37 30 190 24 25 987	72 44 146 210 161 30 28 37 30 190 24 25 997	69 44 206 157 30 26 37 29 190 23 23 980	69 44 146 207 157 30 26 37 29 190 23 23 981	5.4% 2.1% 15.5% 9.2% 0.2% 0.2% 1.5% 1.0% 39.0% 0.6% 0.7% 98.5%	1.00 [0.97, 1.03] 1.00 [0.96, 1.04] 1.00 [0.98, 1.01] 1.00 [0.98, 1.01] 0.99 [0.97, 1.01] 0.90 [0.79, 1.03] 0.90 [0.78, 1.04] 1.00 [0.95, 1.05] 1.00 [0.94, 1.07] 1.00 [0.92, 1.08] 1.00 [0.92, 1.08] 1.00 [0.99, 1.00]	
Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0.00; Ch			(P = 0.5	7); I² = ()%		
Test for overall effect: Z = 0.72	(P = 0.47))					
2.1.2 ID Jaijaroensup 1999 B ID1 Jaijaroensup 1999 C ID1 Jaijaroensup 1999 D ID2 Jaijaroensup 1999 E ID2 Recuenco 2017 ID Subtotal (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0.00; Ch			12 10 24 25 30 101 P = 0.96)	27 25 26 30 133 ; 1² = 09	0.0% 0.0% 0.2% 0.2% 1.0% 1.5%	1.01 [0.56, 1.81] 0.93 [0.47, 1.84] 0.96 [0.84, 1.10] 0.96 [0.84, 1.10] 1.00 [0.94, 1.07] 0.99 [0.94, 1.04]	
Test for overall effect: Z = 0.45	(P = 0.66)					
Total (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0.00; Ch Test for overall effect: Z = 0.76 Test for subgroup differences:	(P = 0.44))			1.00 [0.99, 1.00]	0.85 0.9 1 1.1 1.2 Favors 3-dose Favours 2-dose	

Immunogenicity after [0, 7 days] PrEP series with HDCV or PCECV

	Certainty assessment							Nº of patients		Effect			
Nº of s	studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other consideration s	rabies	[0, 7, 21/28 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule	Relative (95% Cl)	Absolute (95% Cl)	Certainty	Importance

Immunogenicity (RCTs) (follow up: range 2 weeks to 3 weeks; assessed with: titer level above 0.5)

2 ^{1,2} randomized serious ^a not serious not serious none 264/264 264/264 RR 1.00 0 fewer per trials trials interval i	Level 2	CRITICAL
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Immunogenicity (observational studies) (follow up range: 2 to 3 weeks, assessed with titer level above 0.5)

10	observational	not serious	not serious	not serious ^b	not serious	none	1090/1137	1081/1114	RR 1.00	0 fewer per		CRITICAL
3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	studies						(95.9%)	(97.0%)	(0.99 to 1.00)	1,000		
										(from 10	Level 3	
										fewer to 0		
										fewer)		
1												1 1

CI: Confidence interval; RR: Risk ratio

Explanations

a. Method of randomization and allocation not reported in Soentjens 2019 and allocation concealment not reported in Endy 2019. Neither study blinded participants or healthcare personnel; however, unlikely that cointerventions would have influenced the outcome.

b. Sabchareon 1999 study was conducted among children and the response may be more robust than in adults, which would potentially overestimate the immune response.

Immunogenicity after [0, 7 days] PrEP series with HDCV or PCECV

	Certainty assessment							№ of patients E		Eff	Effect		
Nº of stu	dies S	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other consideration s	rahies	[0, 7, 21/28 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule	Relative (95% Cl)	Absolute (95% Cl)	Certainty	Importance

Immunogenicity (RCTs) (follow up: range 2 weeks to 3 weeks; assessed with: titer level above 0.5)

2 1,2	randomized trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	264/264 (100.0%)	264/264 (100.0%)	RR 1.00 (0.99 to 1.01)	0 fewer per 1,000 (from 10 fewer to 10 more)	Level 2	CRITICAL
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Immunogenicity (observational studies) (follow up range: 2 to 3 weeks, assessed with titer level above 0.5)

10 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious ^b	not serious	none	1090/1137 (95.9%)	1081/1114 (97.0%)	RR 1.00 (0.99 to 1.00)	0 fewer per 1,000		CRITICAL
										(from 10 fewer to 0 fewer)	Level 3	

CI: Confidence interval; RR: Risk ratio

Explanations

a. Method of randomization and allocation not reported in Soentjens 2019 and allocation concealment not reported in Endy 2019. Neither study blinded participants or healthcare personnel; however, unlikely that cointerventions would have influenced the outcome.

b. Sabchareon 1999 study was conducted among children and the response may be more robust than in adults, which would potentially overestimate the immune response.

Immunogenicity after [0, 7 days] PrEP series with HDCV or PCECV

Certainty assessment							Nº of patients		Effect			
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other consideration s	rahies	[0, 7, 21/28 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule	Relative (95% Cl)	Absolute (95% Cl)	Certainty	Importance

Immunogenicity (RCTs) (follow up: range 2 weeks to 3 weeks; assessed with: titer level above 0.5)

more)		2 ^{1,2}	randomized trials	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	264/264 (100.0%)	264/264 (100.0%)	RR 1.00 (0.99 to 1.01)	0 fewer per 1,000 (from 10 fewer to 10 more)	Level 2	CRITICAL
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Immunogenicity (observational studies) (follow up range: 2 to 3 weeks, assessed with titer level above 0.5)

										1			
	10	observational	not serious	not serious	not serious ^b	not serious	none	1090/1137	1081/1114	RR 1.00	0 fewer per		CRITICAL
	3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	studies						(95.9%)	(97.0%)	(0.99 to 1.00)	1,000		
											(from 10	Level 3	
											fewer to 0		
											fewer)		
L													
	CI: Confidence	interval; RR: Risk	atio										

Explanations

a. Method of randomization and allocation not reported in Soentjens 2019 and allocation concealment not reported in Endy 2019. Neither study blinded participants or healthcare personnel; however, unlikely that cointerventions would have influenced the outcome.

b. Sabchareon 1999 study was conducted among children and the response may be more robust than in adults, which would potentially overestimate the immune response.

Outcome for PrEP policy question #2

	Policy question: Should an IM booster dose of rabies vaccine (*PCECV or *HDCV) be recommended as an alternative to a titer check no sooner than day 21 and no later than 3 years after the two dose pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) series IM [0, 7 days] for those in the #3 risk category of people who receive PreP?
Population	Persons in the #3 risk category for whom rabies vaccine PrEP is recommended
Intervention	Day 21- year 3 rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Comparison	No rabies vaccine booster after [0, 7 days] rabies vaccine PrEP schedule
Outcome	Long-term immunogenicity

*Human diploid cell vaccine

Table 3: Summary of Studies Reporting Outcome

Authors last name, pub year	Age (years)	N intervention	N comparison	Comparator vaccine	Risk Ratio [95% CI]	Study limitations (Study quality ³)
Endy, 2019	Mean 32.4, Range 18 - 59	20	No comparison ¹	PCEC, IM	Not able to calculate ²	8/9 Minimal concerns
Soentjens, 2019	Median 29.0, NR	183	No comparison ¹	HDCV, IM	Not able to calculate ²	8/9 Minimal concerns

¹No comparison data available for this policy question available in these studies.

²No comparison data available to calculate effect estimate.

³Study quality for observational studies was assessed using the Newcastle Ottawa Scale.

Duration of immunogenicity after [0, 7 days] PrEP series with HDCV or PCECV

Certainty assessment										
	№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other consideration s	Impact	Certainty	Importance

Anamnestic response after booster (follow up: range 1 weeks to 3)

2 ^{1,2}	observational	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	A historical control of trial participants receiving 2 doses of rabies		CRITICAL
	studies						vaccine resulting in 100% immunogenicity (n=264) at 1-3 weeks		
							following vaccination schedule (Endy 2019, Soentjens 2019) : 203/203	Level 3	
							(100%) seroconverstion with booster		

CI: Confidence interval

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