



Merlin disease code: 07100 Rabies, Human

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No paper case report form

No Merlin extended data

Clinical criteria for case classification

Rabies is an acute encephalomyelitis that almost always progresses to coma or death within 10 days after the first symptom.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

One or more of the following:

- Detection by direct fluorescent antibody of viral antigens in a clinical specimen (preferably the brain or the nerves surrounding hair follicles in the nape of the neck),
- **Or** isolation (in cell culture or in a laboratory animal) of rabies virus from saliva, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), or central nervous system tissue,
- **Or** identification of a rabies-neutralizing antibody titer ≥ 5 (complete neutralization) in the serum or CSF of an unvaccinated person.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

Laboratory confirmation by all of the above methods is strongly recommended. CDC requests the following specimens: CSF, serum, or saliva (not sputum), biopsy of skin from the back of the neck just above hairline. Neck biopsy and saliva specimens should be sent packed in dry ice.