Rabies Exposure Management for Bat-related Incidents

Was the patient around a bat?

NO

Was a bat in the same room as a human?

NO

Was the patient alert and awake the entire time the bat and human were in the same room?

NO

Was the patient bitten? *

NO or UNKNOWN

Was the patient bitten?

YES

Has the bat been captured for testing? (Shots may be delayed for up to 3 days pending test results.)

NO

Was the patient a young child, alone in the room?

NO

Can the patient say, “I know I wasn’t bitten”?

NO*

Test bat for rabies. Is the test result positive or unsatisfactory or indeterminate?

YES

No rabies post exposure prophylaxis needed.

* Thoroughly wash any wounds with soap and water and, if available, flush with povidone iodine solution (or other virucidal solution). Evaluate tetanus vaccination status, update if needed.

Administer rabies post exposure prophylaxis (PEP): Human Rabies Immune-Globulin (HRIG) on day 0, plus a series of Human Rabies Vaccines (HRV) on days 0, 3, 7, and 14 (immune compromised patients should receive a 5th dose on day 28 and subsequent titer check).