

Fast Facts

Rabies

- Caused by the rabies virus
- Transmitted to humans through the saliva from an infected animal usually through a bite
- Any mammal can transmit the virus, including cats, dogs, ferrets, goats, horses, cows, bats, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, skunks, bats, beavers, woodchucks and monkeys
 - In US, most likely to get from bats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons or skunks
- More likely to contract if you participate in activities that increase chances of encountering wild animals, traveling/living in areas where rabies is more common, such as developing countries, or if wounds are to the head or neck
 - Once the late stage symptoms appear, the disease is usually fatal

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<p><i>Initial:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Flu-like -Linger for several days <p><i>Late:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fever -Headache -Nausea -Vomiting -Agitation -Anxiety -Confusion -Hyperactivity -Difficulty swallowing -Fear of water (from the difficulty swallowing) -Excessive salivation -Hallucinations -Insomnia -Partial paralysis -Death 	<p><i>Postexposure prophylaxis:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Receive as soon as possible after exposure -Series of shots that are comprised of the rabies immune globulin -Initial injection is given in two parts (first in your arm and the second is given around the area where you were bitten) -Receive three more injections in your arm on day 3, 7 and 14 following exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Do not approach wild animals -Report any stray animals to local authorities -Prevent bats from entering your home and have any that are present removed by professionals -Get rabies vaccine before traveling to an area where rabies is prevalent -If you have pets, be sure to get them vaccinated and keep them away from wild animals

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