Rubies viruses

Rabies is a dangerous virus that causes brain inflammation in humans and other mammals. Animals carrying the infection can spread rabies to humans through bites and scratches.

It is an RNA virus of the rhabdovirus family that can affect the body in one of two ways. It can enter the peripheral nervous system directly and migrate to the brain. It can also replicate within muscle tissue, where it is safe from the host's immune system. From here, it enters the nervous system through the neuromuscular junctions.

Once inside the nervous system, the virus produces acute inflammation of the brain. Coma and death soon follow.

There are two types of rabies. The first type, furious or encephalitic rabies, occurs in 80% of human cases, and a person with it is more likely to experience hyperactivity and hydrophobia. The second type, called paralytic or "dumb" rabies, causes paralysis as a dominant symptom.

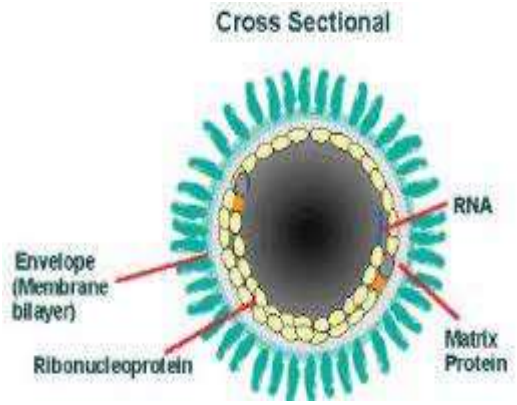
Symptoms including:

1. confusion and aggression
2. partial paralysis
3. involuntary muscle twitching
4. rigid neck muscles
5. convulsions
6. hyperventilation and difficulty breathing
7. hypersalivation, or producing a lot of saliva
8. frothing at the mouth
9. fear of water, or hydrophobia
10. hallucinations, nightmares, and insomnia
11. priapism, or permanent erection, in males
12. photophobia, or a fear of light

Rabies vaccine

Doctors do not offer the rabies vaccine routinely. Instead, they reserve it for those at high risk of rabies exposure, such as laboratory staff working with the virus that

causes the disease, veterinarians, and people likely to receive animal bites. These individuals may receive regular vaccinations.

Prevention

1. regular rabies vaccinations for pets and domestic animals
2. bans or restrictions on the import of animals from certain countries
3. widespread vaccinations of humans in some areas
4. educational information and awareness
5. enhanced access to medical care to people who receive bites