[230] Adverse Events Following Rabies Pre- and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis in Taiwan, July–December 2013 [309]

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Conflict of Interest

No relationships to disclose.

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Background

Taiwan eliminated canine rabies and has been considered rabies free since 1961. In July 2013, the agricultural authorities identified three rabid ferret-badgers captured in 2012. In response to the re-emergence, Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (TCDC) issued guidance on rabies pre- (PrEP) (three dises if cell-culture vaccines [CCVs] on days 0, 7, and 28) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) (five doses of CCVs on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28, with or without rabies immune globulin [RIG]) as part of the contingency plans.

Objectives

To characterize adverse events (Aes) in rabies PrEP and PEP recipients.

Methods

TCDC and Taiwan Food and Drug Administration collaborated on the national passive vaccine safety surveillance. We reviewed reports of AEs after RIG or rabies CCVs, for the period from July to December 2013. We also provided assistance on the management of potentially serious adverse events (SAEs) and assessed compliance with subsequent PrEP or PEP administration.

Results

The overall reporting rate was 4.7 per 10,000 vaccine doses administered. Of the 23 AE reports, none were classified as anaphylaxis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, or acute disseminated encephalomyelitis. The two SAE reports involved a boy, aged 2 years, hospitalized for acute bronchiolitis two days following the third PEP dose of CCV; and a male, aged 66 years, with significant weight loss in six days following the first PEP dose of CCV and diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis. Among the 21 nonserious reports, the most frequently reported AEs were rash (n = 8), dizziness (n = 5), and pruritus (n = 4). Seven (30%) patients, including four PEP recipients who reported nonserious AEs, did not complete the required vaccination series.

FIGURE 1. Weekly number of CCV doses administered, July–December 2013.

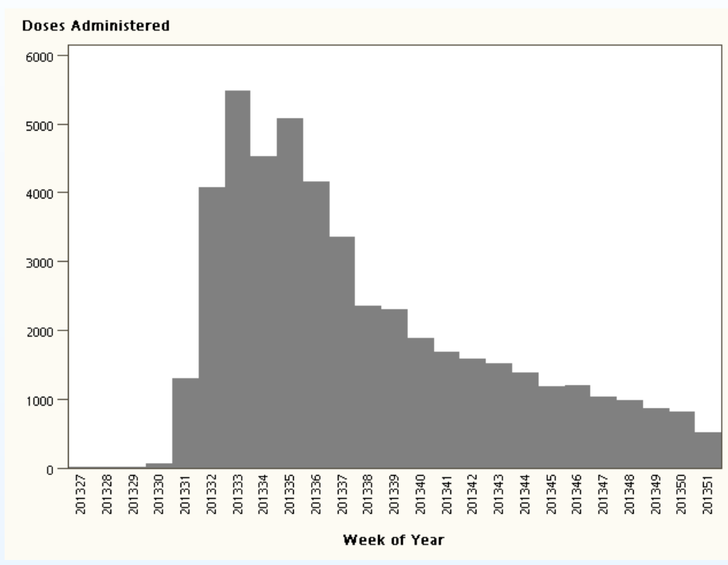

FIGURE 2. The Formosan ferret-badger (*Melongate moschata*) is widely distributed in Southeast Asia.

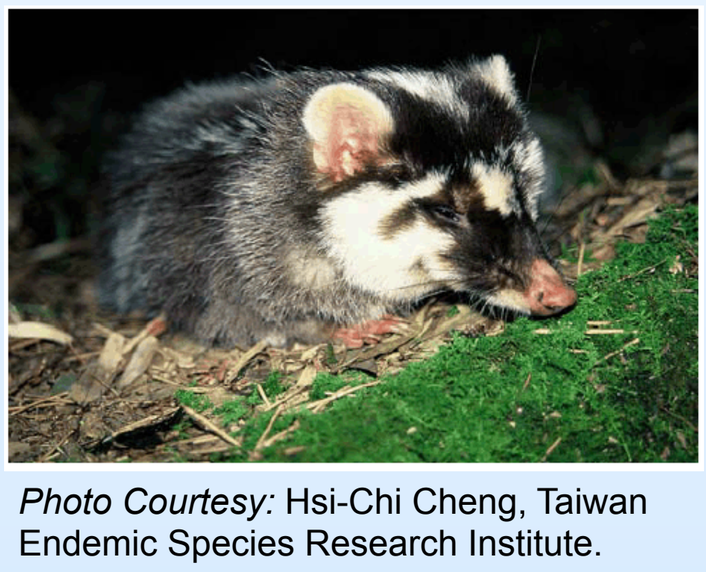

Photo Courtesy: Hsi-Chi Cheng, Taiwan Endemic Species Research Institute.

TABLE. Reported MedDRA SOC and PTs for 21 nonserious reports

MedDRA SOC/PT	n = 35
Eye disorders	**1**
Eye swelling	1
Gastrointestinal disorders	**6**
Abdominal pain	1
Diarrhoea	2
Gingival swelling	1
Nausea	1
Vomiting	1
General disorders and administration site conditions	**3**
Feeling hot	1
Generalised oedema	1
Thirst	1
Investigations	1
Blood pressure increased	1
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorder	**2**
Musculoskeletal stiffness	1
Myalgia	1
Nervous system disorders	7
Dizziness	5
Headache	2
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	**13**
Pruritus	2
Pruritus generalised	1
Rash	8
Rash erythematous	1
Rash pruritic	1
Vascular disorders	**2**
Behcet's syndrome	1
Hot flush	1

SOC=system organ class; PT=preferred term

Conclusion

Most reported AEs were nonserious and consistent with those identified during clinical trials or postlicensure studies. The risk of acquiring rabies must be carefully considered before PEP discontinuation.

References

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