

A-28: Determination of the efficacy of post exposure anti-rabies vaccine therapy in Sri Lanka*

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In Sri Lanka though tissue culture vaccines have been used for rabies post exposure treatment since 1986, no studies have been done to evaluate the antibody response in these vaccines. At present the modified regime recommended by the World Health Organisation for developing countries

referred to as the 2:1:1 schedule is followed in Government hospitals, where 2 doses of vaccines are given intramuscularly, one on each deltoid on day 0 and one dose on day 7 and a fourth dose on day 21.

Twenty five patients who received post exposure therapy at the National Hospital were randomly selected for this study. Two blood samples were collected from each of these patients on the following days: Pre-vaccination sample on day 0 and post- vaccination sample on day 50. Mouse neutralization test was performed on these sera to determine the sero conversion rate following vaccination.

A minimum antibody concentration of 0.5 IU/ml in serum is essential for protection against rabies infection. Results obtained in this study showed that all vaccines had 100% sero conversion and also protective antibodies against rabies. Therefore, the 2:1:1 schedule used for post exposure therapy has been proved to evoke adequate protective antibodies.

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