Management of Patients Potentially Exposed to Rabies

Did an exposure to rabies potentially occur?
- Did a mammal (animal with fur) bite the patient?
- Did the patient’s open wound, broken skin or mucous membrane contact saliva or central nervous system tissue from a mammal?
- Did the patient have direct contact with a bat such that a bite or scratch cannot be ruled out?
- Did the patient waken to find a bat in the room or see a bat in a room with a previously unattended young child or mentally impaired person?

Bat?

Wild animal?

High risk species? (ex. raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, bobcat, woodchuck)

Low risk wild species? (ex. squirrel, chipmunk, mouse/rat, rabbit/hare)

Other or unknown?

Bat? Available to test?

Wild animal? Available to test?

Dog, cat or ferret?

Healthy and available for quarantine?

Unhealthy?

Unavailable?

Small pocket pet? ex. guinea pig, rabbit, gerbil, hamster

Housed exclusively indoors?

Livestock?

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
The Division of Epidemiology and Immunization is available 24/7 to answer questions about human exposures. Call 617-983-6800 May, 2011