

In recent years, no major paradigm shifts have occurred in the utilization of new products for the prevention and control of rabies. Development of new cost-effective rabies biologics and antiviral drugs is critical in continuing to prevent and reduce disease. A rabies vaccine that is thermostable over a range of ambient environmental temperatures would be highly advantageous, especially for tropical regions with challenging cold-chain storage where canine rabies remains enzootic resulting in preventable human mortality. Any rabies vaccine that is effective without the need for rabies immune globulin (RIG) will contribute fundamentally to disease prevention by reducing the cost and complexity of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). The lack of high quality, affordable RIG is a continuing problem. Virus-specific monoclonal antibodies (mAb) will soon fulfill the PEP requirement for passive immunity, currently met with RIG. As a result of successful post- and pre-exposure prophylaxis in developed countries, until recently no significant focused efforts have been devoted to rabies virus-specific antiviral agents.