

## Original Article

# Investigation of Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Recipients with Ferret-Badger Exposures in Taiwan, May 2012-October 2013

Hoa-Hsin Wu<sup>1</sup>, Wan-Chin Chen<sup>1</sup>, Yi-Chun Lo<sup>1</sup>, Wan-Ting Huang<sup>2</sup>

1. Office of Preventive Medicine, Centers for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan
2. Epidemic Intelligence Center, Centers for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan

### Abstract

In response to the outbreak of enzootic ferret-badgers rabies in Taiwan since July 2013, we conducted an investigation and compared the characteristics between exposures in rabies enzootic and rabies nonenzootic zones. We enrolled persons in the rabies postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) registry who were exposed to ferret-badgers during May 2012-October 2013 and received  $\geq 1$  dose of rabies vaccine. We collected information on demographics, exposure circumstances, behaviors of ferret-badgers, and medical management received from rabies enzootic zones identified as of October 31, 2013. The Council of Agriculture defined rabies enzootic zones as towns where rabid ferret-badgers were identified. We used chi-square test and nonparametric test to analyze categorical and continuous variables, respectively. Fifty-six recipients met the criteria. The median age was 52 years (range 9–86). Forty-five (80%) exposures occurred in rural area; 35 (63%) occurred in rabies enzootic zones. The most frequent circumstance leading to exposures was provoked attacks ( $n = 30$ , 54%). Appearance in the daytime or lighted place was the most common abnormal behavior of ferret-badgers. PEP recipients in rabies enzootic zones had a higher odd of having wounds irrigated adequately (57%) than those in nonenzootic zones (21%) (odds ratio [OR] 5.3, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.5–19.3), and the odds of seeing ferret-badgers wandering into residential areas were higher in rabies enzootic zones than nonenzootic zones (43% versus 14%, OR 4.5, 95% CI 1.1–18.1). People, especially those live in rabies enzootic zones, should be cautious about abnormal behaviors of ferret-badgers. Because provoked attacks are the leading cause of exposures, the public should be warned against approaching ferret-badgers and should contact professionals to handle the animals if necessary.

**Keyword:** rabies, postexposure prophylaxis, ferret-badger

## Outbreak Investigation Express

### Investigation on the First Measles Outbreak in 2014

Chyi-Mei Lai, Ying-Ying Tsai, Min-Nan Hung, Mei-Ju Chen,  
Chiou-Yueh You, Chao-Ching Chang

Kaohsiung-Pingtung Regional Center, Centers for Disease Control,  
Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan

#### Abstract

A nine-month-old baby girl was notified as a measles case on Feb 13, 2014; the diagnosis was confirmed by laboratory testing the next day. Further investigation revealed that the twin sister of this case, with symptoms onset early on Jan 28, 2014, also had measles. The travel history found that both went to the Philippines with mother on Dec 15, 2013 and returned to Taiwan on Jan 19, 2014. Based on the travel history and phylogenetic analysis, this measles household cluster was classified as imported cases.

In response to this cluster, 1096 contacts were identified and instructed to monitor their health status until 18 days after exposure. Twenty-nine subjects including 28 children less than 1 year old and one pregnant woman were given IMIG. No more measles cases were identified as of Mar 3. Since measles is a highly contagious disease, prompt identification and management of susceptible contacts, as what we did for this cluster, would be valuable for halting the spreading of measles.

**Keywords:** measles, skin rash, contacts

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