

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Rabies is a preventable but fatal zoonotic disease, with India bearing one-third of the global rabies burden. Despite the launch of the National Action Plan for Rabies Elimination (NAPRE), gaps in adherence to guidelines and resource allocation persist. This study evaluates the fidelity of dog bite case management in Amroha district, Uttar Pradesh, focusing on awareness, healthcare practices, and adherence to NAPRE protocols.

Objectives: 1. Assess the awareness of patients having dog bites regarding rabies and the post exposure prophylaxis, 2. Evaluate the adherence of healthcare workers to the established protocols of prevention, control, and adoption of intradermal route for post exposure prophylaxis.

Method: A cross-sectional study was conducted at three primary health centers, two community health centers, and one district hospital in Amroha district. Data were collected through structured questionnaires from 115 patients and attendants and 81 healthcare workers. Observational checklists were used to assess facility-level adherence to rabies management protocols. Data was analysed using SPSS to evaluate knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) and adherence levels.

Results: Among patients, 82.6% were aware of rabies, but only 59.1% knew about its prevention and 60.9% about PEP. Unsafe practices, including reliance on traditional remedies, were noted in 18.3% of cases. Healthcare workers demonstrated varying levels of adherence to post exposure prophylaxis protocols, with 69% having undergone relevant training. Barriers included insufficient training, inconsistent adherence to intradermal vaccination guidelines, and resource constraints. Facility assessments highlighted gaps in the availability of vaccines and immunoglobulins.

Conclusion: The study reveals critical gaps in both community awareness and healthcare delivery for rabies management in Amroha district. Strengthening community education, enhancing healthcare worker training, and improving resource allocation are imperative to achieving India's goal of zero rabies deaths by 2030.

Keywords: Rabies , Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, dog bite case Management, implementation research, fidelity,