

The Asian Rabies Expert Bureau (AREB)



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Third international meeting of the Partners for Rabies Prevention
Banna - Italy, April 27 - 30, 2009

AREB



AREB is:

- an informal group of experts in rabies, including members of nine Asian countries (Bangladesh – China – India – Indonesia – Pakistan – Philippines – Sri Lanka – Thailand – Viet Nam)
- Created in 2004

AREB Aim:

- **Elimination of human rabies from Asia**

AREB Objectives:

- Present and discuss the rabies situation in AREB countries,
- Exchange points of view,
- **Consider specific problems encountered in clinical practice and define best practices in local situations**

AREB RESOLUTIONS



1.To hold annual meetings

5 annual meetings

=> 1st AREB Meeting - 22-23 June 2004 – Cebu Island, Philippines

=> 2nd AREB Meeting - 25-27 July 2005 - Shanghai, China

=> 3rd AREB Meeting - 26-28 September 2006 - New Delhi, India

=> 4th AREB Meeting - 4-6 September 2007 - Bangkok, Thailand

=> 5th AREB Meeting - 17-20 November 2008 - Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

6th AREB Meeting - 12-15 October 2009 - Bali, Indonesia

2. To publish meeting reports and position papers

5 publications in *Vaccine*; 1 publication in *APCRI Journal*

=> Preventing the incurable: Asian rabies experts advocate rabies control.

Vaccine 2006;24:3045-49.

=> Advocating Rabies Control in Asia.

Vaccine 2007;25:4123-24.

=> Report of the Third Meeting of the Asian Rabies Expert Bureau.

APCRI Journal 2007;VIII (II):24-28.

=> An Important Date in Rabies History.

Vaccine 2007 ;25:8647-50.

=> Rabies awareness in eight Asian countries.

Vaccine 2008;26:6344-48.

=> Report of the Fifth AREB Meeting

Vaccine 2009;27:2403-2407.

AREB RESOLUTIONS



3. To elaborate consensus on practical solutions to specific problems

=> Q&A available on AREB website (accessible to AREB members)

=> Assistance of WHO requested for some specific problems (e.g. definition a minimum vaccine potency par ID dose of cell vaccine; booster policy after PrEP; dose calculation for RIG administration; implementation of a WHO qualification process for RIGs, ...).

AREB RESOLUTIONS



4. To study rabies awareness in the AREB countries and identify the best networks for dissemination of information on rabies

AREB survey published in *Vaccine* (2008)

A multicentre, multi-country study of 4 377 patients seeking rabies post-exposure prophylaxis in rabies prevention centers, carried out from 1 July 2007 to 31 January 2008, in 8 AREB countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand).

Results

- ⇒ 2/3 patients who referred to a rabies prevention centre had **no or inappropriate local wound treatment**
- ⇒ Less than 1/3 attended the centre **within 6 hours after exposure**, although 95% lived < 5 hours from the rabies prevention centre
- ⇒ **PEP not optimal**: RIG administered to only 22% of patients with category 3 exposure

Conclusions

- Increase information on the necessity to
 - apply immediate appropriate wound care
 - consult the nearest rabies prevention centre as soon as possible
- ⇒ Rabies information campaigns to target school-children

AREB RESOLUTIONS



5. To support the implementation of PrEP of children living in rabies endemic areas

⇒ Message dispatched in AREB countries and

- through publication in *Vaccine* (2009;27:2403-07)
- WHO support requested

AREB RESOLUTIONS



6. To increase rabies awareness and education

⇒ Identification of target groups

⇒ Development of rabies education tools

⇒ Press releases & press conferences (after each AREB meeting)

⇒ Participation in **World Rabies Days**

⇒ **Support to and collaboration with the Alliance for Rabies Control**



Thank you!

 www.areb.info



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