Dog bite, immunoglobulin, and preexposure vaccination

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Sir,

The recent letter from Bertozzi and Appignani on the topic of rabies immunisation is very interesting.[1] Bertozzi *et al*. agreed with our previous report that "immunoglobulin should be based on the severity of the wound.[2]" In addition, Bertozzi *et al*. raised two important considerations:

a. The problem on determination of wound severity and,
b. The use of pre-exposure prophylaxis.

For the first issue, it is not a myth. Standard guideline for using of immunoglobulin can be available. The possible adverse effect of immunoglobulin is the issue that should be weight before using it. For the second issue, Bertozzi *et al*. discussed on the cost and availability of vaccine and immunoglobulin.[1] It is no doubt that any vaccine or immunoglobulin cost. However, in term of cost-effectiveness, the lost due to no immunisation to the patient is significantly more. Hampson *et al*. confirmed that post-exposure prophylaxis for rabies is an actual cost-effective strategy.[3] Focusing on the pre-exposure prophylaxis, it is not routinely recommended. In Thailand, where the dog borne rabies is highly prevalent, it is still not suggested. If Bertozzi *et al*. actually considered on the cost, the pre-exposure vaccination seems to be not cost-effective for both local people in endemic areas and travellers who visit those areas.[4]

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