

**Immunogenicity and Safety of a Single Booster Dose of Purified Vero Rabies Vaccine-Serum Free (PVRV-NG2) Following 2- and 3-Dose Pre-exposure Prophylaxis in Adults: Results from a Phase III Study**

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**Background:** A next-generation, serum-free, highly purified Vero cell rabies vaccine (PVRV-NG2) is being developed to replace current licensed vaccines (Imovax® Rabies, Verorab®). Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is recommended for individuals at risk due to occupational exposure or travel to endemic regions; boosters may be needed for long-term protection.

**Materials and Methods:** This Phase 3 randomized study in Thailand (NCT04127786) included two adult cohorts. Cohort 1 (n=157) received a PVRV-NG2 booster one year after 3-dose PrEP with PVRV-NG2 (Group 1), Verorab (Group 2), or Imovax Rabies (Group 3). Cohort 2 (n=212) received the booster 2–3 years after 2-dose PrEP with the same vaccines (Groups 4–6). Rabies virus neutralizing antibody (RVNA) titers were measured before and 14 days post-booster; safety was monitored for 6 months.

**Results:** Pre-booster RVNA  $\geq 0.5$  IU/mL was maintained in 53.8%, 53.8%, and 35.7% (Cohort 1) and 62.0%, 51.5%, and 64.9% (Cohort 2). After booster, 100% achieved RVNA  $\geq 0.5$  IU/mL. Post-booster GMTs were 56.5, 57.1, and 33.7 IU/mL (Cohort 1) and 95.4, 89.4, and 64.7 IU/mL (Cohort 2). The booster was well tolerated with no safety concerns identified.

**Conclusion:** A single PVRV-NG2 booster induced strong anamnestic responses in adults previously vaccinated with either 2- or 3-dose PrEP, regardless of primary vaccine.

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