

**EVALUATION OF RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS IN HUMANS INJURED BY
DOGS AND CATS IN JABOTICABAL, SÃO PAULO, FROM 2007 TO 2010**

*(AVALIAÇÃO DA CONDUTA DE PROFILAXIA ANTIRRÁBICA ADOTADA PARA PESSOAS
ENVOLVIDAS EM AGRAVOS COM CÃES E GATOS NO MUNICÍPIO DE JABOTICABAL, SÃO
PAULO, NO PERÍODO DE 2007 A 2010)*

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A retrospective descriptive study for the period between 2007 and 2010 was performed to evaluate the indication of human rabies prophylaxis in Jaboticabal. The analyzed data were obtained from the form the patients fill in when they are seen at the hospital. We also calculated the cost of the vaccines for post-exposure prophylaxis. It was found that from the 1,336 people attacked by animals, 1,015 were prescribed vaccines, totaling 1,251 doses at a cost of R\$22,970.10. Of the total reported cases, 1,115 patients were attacked by dogs and cats clinically healthy at the time of the assault and remained so during the observation period, which was done by the victim or by the pet owner. Therefore, considering the epidemiological situation of rabies in the city, these patients could have been exempted from prophylaxis, but only 221 were, meaning that 894 people were vaccinated without being necessary. Concluding, a total of 1,094 doses (R\$20,134.70) could have been saved. We conclude that the number of post-exposure prophylaxis against rabies is very high in Jaboticabal, which shows that when the prophylaxis was prescribed, the controlled area classification of the municipality and whether the animal was healthy or not were not taken into consideration. In addition, the observation of animals was not done according to the standards. Awareness and ongoing training of health professionals and the public about the disease and observation of the attacker is recommended. The integration of medical and veterinary services while caring for victims is also advised in order to better assess each case regarding the decision to grant or not post-exposure prophylaxis and to ensure that it is done with discretion and safely.

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