

## **Zydus Cadila becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Pharma company to receive WHO accreditation for Rabies vaccine**

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The World Health Organization has approved Lyssavac N - the Purified Duck Embryo Rabies Vaccine (PDEV) manufactured by Zydus Cadila, for purchase by various United Nations Agencies. With this, Zydus Cadila becomes the first Indian Pharma company and the second pharma company in the world, to receive the WHO accreditation (prequalification) for rabies vaccine.

One of the largest manufacturers of rabies vaccine in India, Zydus Cadila produces 3 million doses of the vaccine per annum. The dedicated vaccine facility set up in technical collaboration with Berna Biotech of Switzerland is located at the group's world class manufacturing plant at Moraiya, Ahmedabad.

The Purified Duck Embryo Rabies Vaccine is a very well tolerated vaccine with the best sero conversion for protection against rabies. The vaccine is currently exported to countries in South East Asia and Africa. In India, the vaccine is marketed under the brand name 'Vaxirab'.

Rabies is a viral disease which often gets transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. It is one of the most dreaded and fatal diseases in human beings. The virus infects the central nervous system, causing encephalopathy (disease of the brain) and ultimately death, if medical treatment is not sought before the symptoms appear. Rabies is prevalent across Europe, Asia, America and Africa. Globally, approximately 10 million people each year are treated after exposure to rabies. Some 40,000 to 70,000 people die of the disease each year, mainly in Africa, China and India.

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