**Rabies: prevention and vaccination protocols**

**Dr Camilla Rothe**

Rabies is a lethal zoonotic disease prevalent in many parts of the world. Exposure to potentially rabid animals is an important topic for travel medicine practitioners. The risk to suffer an animal bite for travelers is estimated at roughly 0,5% per month of travel. Appropriate post-exposure care involving active and passive vaccination is essential, it is however difficult to access and potentially inavailable in many parts of the world.

A high number of animal encounters is avoidable. Therefore travellers in the first place have to be made aware of the potential risk animal contacts can pose. Provocative behaviour should be avoided. In addition, pre-travel vaccination against rabies can provide travelers with a solid immune response against rabies virus for decades; it has to be completed by 2 booster vaccinations in case of an injury by a potentially rabid animal. WHO have recently suggested to replace the classic 3-dose vaccination scheme by a 2-dose scheme in immunocompetent individuals. Also, different vaccination schemes for post exposure prophylaxis exist.

In this talk

* The epidemiology of exposure to potentially rabid animals in travelers to different parts of the world will be outlined
* Important measures to prevent rabies in travellers will be introduced
* Different protocols for pre- and post travel vaccination against rabies will be discussed