



Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Overview

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease is a highly contagious, fatal disease in rabbits and is currently classified as a reportable, foreign animal disease in the United States. Animal health officials detected rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus serotype 2 (RHDV2) for the third time in the United States in February 2020. It has since been spreading to multiple states across the Southwest. It is important to note that RHDV2 does not impact human health.

RHDV2, unlike other rabbit hemorrhagic disease viruses, affects both domestic and wild rabbits. Infected rabbits may develop a fever, be hesitant to eat, or show respiratory or nervous signs. However, many times, the only signs of the disease are sudden death.

How RHDV2 Spreads

RHDV2 can be spread through direct contact or exposure to an infected rabbit's excretions or blood. The virus can also survive and be spread from carcasses, food, water, and any contaminated materials. It has also been spread by insects. Because of survivability, people can spread the virus indirectly by carrying it on their clothing and shoes after being exposed to an infected animal or environment. Thorough biosecurity and vaccination are the only way to protect your rabbits.*

*Source

fs-rhdv2.pdf (usda.gov)

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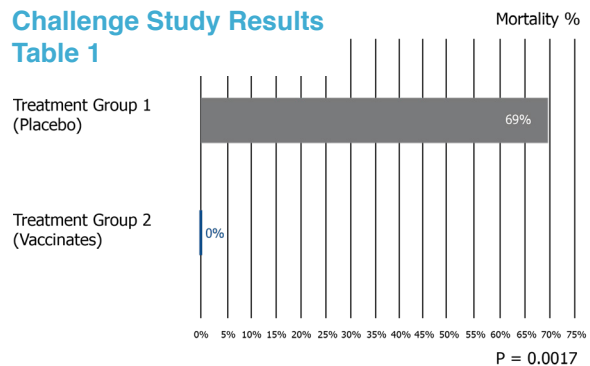
Vaccine Trial Data

Medgene has been working with the USDA to provide a US based vaccine option. As part of the approval process, the RHDV2 vaccine has demonstrated safety. The results of these studies have supported USDA's decision to grant Emergency Use Authorization of this vaccine while further trials are ongoing for a full approval.

Summary of Efficacy Study

A study was performed to evaluate the vaccine's performance against direct challenge with live RHDV2 virus. The study results in **Table 1** showed zero mortalities in the vaccinated group of rabbits and a 69% mortality rate in the placebo group after being challenged with the RHDV2 virus. The difference in mortality rates between the vaccinates and placebo groups was highly statistically significant with a p-value of 0.017.

Challenge Study Results
Table 1



Preliminary Safety Data

At this time 1/3 of the required safety information has been completed and approved by the USDA for Emergency Use Authorization.

Currently, 105 rabbits (kits, and breeding stock in various stages of reproduction) have been fully vaccinated and observed for safety concerns. Of these 105 rabbits, 1 kit and 1 adult rabbit exhibited minor post injection swelling at the site of administration. This swelling was resolved within 48 hours.

Additional rabbits are currently enrolling in the remainder of our safety evaluation needed for full approval.

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