

## Zero by 30 and microarray patches

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Rabies elimination is the ultimate equity intervention in settings where there is differential access to post-exposure prophylaxis, which is a striking feature of all countries where canine rabies remains endemic.<sup>1</sup> Progress towards the 2030 goal of eliminating dog-mediated rabies has stagnated with nearly 60,000 children continuing to lose their lives annually due to this vaccine-preventable disease.

There is a need to bolster and update the rabies elimination toolkit. Thus, Lodha et al's plea to employ the opportunity provided by pre-exposure childhood immunisation in rabies-endemic settings should be heeded, in addition to optimising mass dog vaccination, post-exposure prophylaxis and public awareness.<sup>2</sup>

A potential game-changer for ensuring effective rabies immunisation, whether pre-or post-exposure, particularly in hard-to-reach communities was unfortunately not mentioned. Microarray patches (MAPs) present a tantalising opportunity to: increase ease of administration, transport, storage and safe disposal after administration; provide thermostable potent vaccine in remote areas plagued by power outages; be dose-sparing; promote adherence through decreased discomfort; and, with the reduced skill-level required for administration, possibly permit self-administration of rabies immunisation doses.<sup>3</sup>

MAPs were prioritised in the top three innovations needed to expand immunisation protection in low and middle-income countries in May 2020, and PATH has provided a target product profile.<sup>4,5</sup> It is now crucial to accelerate rabies-vaccine MAP development—many young lives are at stake!

### Contributors

DND conceptualised, prepared and reviewed this contribution.

### Declaration of interests

I declare no competing interests.

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None.

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