Admissions with influenza and influenza vaccine effectiveness, Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network. Results from Northern Hemisphere, 2016/2017 Influenza season

V Baselga-Moreno1, J Diez-Domingo2, S Trushkova2, A Sominina2, S McNeil1, A Mira-Igieias1, A Draganeu3, GM Ruiz-Palacios3, P Kaul7, S Una1, J Kyncl1, T Zhong1, A Kovalchukova1, A Ben-Saïd12,13, M Pirovaya1, A Ambrose1, B Guglielmo1,2, D Piliga1,3, ML Guerrero-Almeida1, N Battr1, M Dusurui1, Z Mandakova1, W Shan1, J Ben Khili1,5, FX López-Labrador1,15, M Ben Jemaa1,17, K Stolyarova1, J Puig-Barbarà1, E Burset16 for the Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network (GIHSN)

1Fundación para el Fomento de la Investigación Sanitaria y Biomédica de la Comunidad Valenciana (FISABIO), Valencia, Spain; 2Ivanovsky Institute of Virology FSBI “N.F. Gamaleya FRCEM” Ministry of Health, Moscow, Russian Federation; 3Research Institute of Influenza, WHO National Influenza Centre of Russia, Russian Federation; 4Canadian Center for Vaccinology, IWK Health Centre and Nova Scotia Health Authority, Halifax, Canada; 5Center for Epidemiology and Surveillance Network (GIHSN)

RESULTS

METHODS

Nasopharyngeal swabs were taken from the patients admitted to hospitals which participated in the surveillance network complying with requirements detailed in the GIHSN protocol, as being residents in a pre-defined hospital catchment area for 6 months at least, not institutionalised, not being discharged in the last 30 days from other episode, and presenting influenza-like illness (ILI) symptoms in 7 days or less before being hospitalised. Informed consent was also required for patients to include them in this study. Real-time reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) was used to obtain laboratory results.

RESULTS (CONT.)

Influenza A(H3N2) was the predominant strain in almost all age groups. Influenza B (mainly B/Victoria-lineage or not subtyped) was more prevalent in the age groups under 50 years old than in the elderly, and was more common in children 5 to 17 years of age.

CONCLUSIONS

Influenza A(H3N2) was the predominant strain this season. Influenza B/Victoria-lineage was detected at the 50th week of 2016, and it increased from the first week of 2017. Vaccination effectiveness was over 60%, for a lower point estimate for influenza A (H3N2) subtype, especially for patients over 65 years old but it still has an effectiveness higher than 30 per cent.

Victor Baselga-Moreno
Fundación para el Fomento de la Investigación Biomédica y Sanitaria (FISABIO)
Valencia, Spain
Phone: +34 961 926 312
E-mail: baselga_vic@gva.es

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