

Respiratory infections

Viral infections in the age group of 0-14 years old during epidemic season 2014/2015 in Poland

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In every epidemic season, viral infections affect the general population, not only adults but also children, posing an understated and underestimated problem. In Poland, in the system of virological surveillance - SENTINEL and NONSENTINEL, at the period dating from 40th week of 2014 to 27th week of 2015 inclusive, 802 clinical materials of patients in the age group of 0-14 years old were examined. A positive result was obtained in 50.87% of samples tested. Positive samples in the distinguished age groups were 38.15% in the age group of 0-4 years old, 8.48% (5-9 years old) and 4.24% (10-14 years old). Influenza viruses accounted for 48.04% confirmations, and influenza-like viruses were detected in 51.96% of all positive samples. Molecular biology-based techniques confirmed the infections caused by influenza type A in 63.27% of samples, including influenza virus untyped A, which was detected in 65.32% of cases, subtype A/H1N1/pdm09 - 28.23% and 6.45% of the subtype A/H3N2/. Furthermore, the genetic material of influenza B was detected in 36.73% of samples. Considering confirmations of influenza-like viruses, the predominant virus was RSV in as many as 96.23% of samples, a lower percentage of detected viruses accounted for the family of Parainfluenza: PIV3 - 1.41% and PIV1 - 0.95%. Special attention should be paid to the coinfections of respiratory viruses, among six reported in the general Polish population, four of them relate to the age group of children up to 14 years old.

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