

THE ACTIVITY OF INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE VIRUSES IN INDIVIDUALS AGED OVER 14 IN THE INFLUENZA SEASON 2015-2016 IN POLAND

D. Kowalczyk, K. Cieślak, K. Szymański and L.B. Brydak

Department of Influenza Research, National Influenza Centre, National Institute of Public Health-
National Institute of Hygiene, Chocimska St 24, 00-791 Warsaw, Poland

Every epidemic season infections inducted by respiratory viruses, especially by the influenza virus, are the cause of many illnesses, complications, which often end in death. The aim of this study was to determine the activity of influenza and influenza-like viruses in individuals over the age of 14 in Poland during the season 2015/2016. A total of 5070 specimens taken from patients aged over 14 were analyzed. The presence of the influenza virus was confirmed in 39.18% of cases, among which subtype A/H1N1/pdm09 (62.58% positive samples) dominated. Analysis of confirmed influenza and influenza-like viruses in individuals divided into 4 age groups showed that the highest morbidity was reported for the age ranges: 45-64 (13.09 %) and 26-44 (12.59%). An increase of influenza type B cases (23.65% positive samples), which was the main cause of morbidity in the age group 15-25 years, has also been noticed. Given the epidemiological and virological data, epidemic season 2015/2016 was characterized by increased activity of the influenza virus compared to the last season. There were more than 3.8 million cases and suspected cases of influenza and influenza-like illness, more than 15,000 hospitalizations and up to 140 deaths.

Keywords: flu, adults, epidemic season, upper respiratory tract