

INFLUENZA IN NEONATES - OWN OBSERVATIONS IN SEASON 2015/2016

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Background: Influenza is a viral infectious disease affecting every age group, including neonates and infants.

Aim: To analyze the frequency, clinical signs and course of influenza in neonates hospitalized during 2015/2016 flu season, focusing on the epidemiological situation of the families.

Material and methods: 9 neonates were hospitalized due to influenza in 2015/2016 season. Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests (RIDTs) and/or Real Time-Polymerase Chains Reaction Tests (RT-PCR) were performed in patients with a clinical suspicion of influenza.

Results: The frequency of neonatal influenza was 5.8% (9/154). The dominant reason for hospital referral was fever (55.6%; 5/9). Other signs included cough, coryza, change of behavior (apathy, anxiety), also apneas. In 2/3 of neonates a generalized infection was suspected on admission. RIDTs were performed in 56% of neonates, but positive results were not observed.. The final diagnosis was made using RT-PCR tests. Complications occurred in six neonates. The mean hospitalization length was 10.7 days. 2/3 patients had contact with the infection at home (none of the families were influenza-vaccinated before the season).

Conclusion: The signs of influenza in neonates are not characteristic, the disease course is severe, complications are frequent. RIDTs seem not very useful in diagnostics.

[1]Supported by the CPME grant 501-1-20-19-16