Influenza in children: clinical forms in the 2017 – 2018 season

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Introduction

- Seasonal influenza epidemics are potentially serious health issue in the paediatric population.
- In Romania, many cases of influenza with various symptoms are registered yearly because of low vaccination rates.

Materials and methods

- We performed a retrospective review on cases of influenza in children who were hospitalized in the 9th Paediatric Department of the National Institute for Infectious Diseases during October 2017– April 2018.
- In all patients we checked sex, background, age, severity of the infection and if there were complications of this pathology.
- The diagnosis was built up on epidemiological data, signs and symptoms and the results of the laboratory investigations.

Results

- Amid the examined period, we have registered 184 instances of influenza.
- There were no deaths
- The etiology of most cases consisted of type B influenza virus.
- H1 subtype of type A influenza virus was responsible for 23.8 % of the illnesses, and H3 subtype 3.8 %.

- The majority of cases were moderate forms 56%, 26.6% were mild forms and 16.6% represent the severe forms.
- The most vulnerable age group was under 2 years and most of them were male.
- Type B was most commonly associated with encephalitis reactions and myositis and type A with interstitial pneumonia and digestive manifestations.

Conclusions

- Influenza infection can present various form of disease, at times with an unfavourable evolution with complications and sequelae.
- We emphasize on the importance of non-specific and specific preventive measures and formulation of an early and precise diagnosis of influenza in paediatric patients.