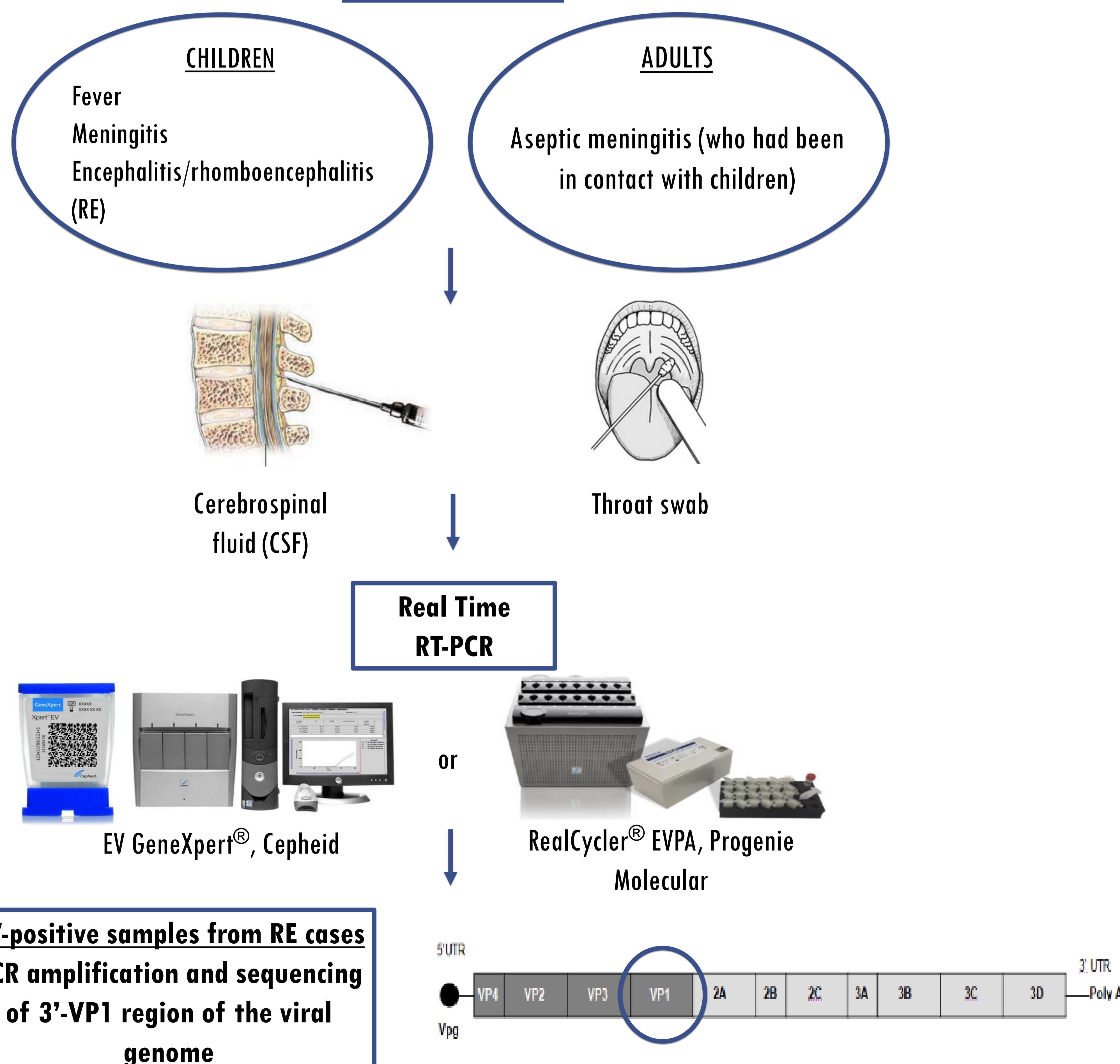


Outbreak of neurological enterovirus A71 infection in Catalonia

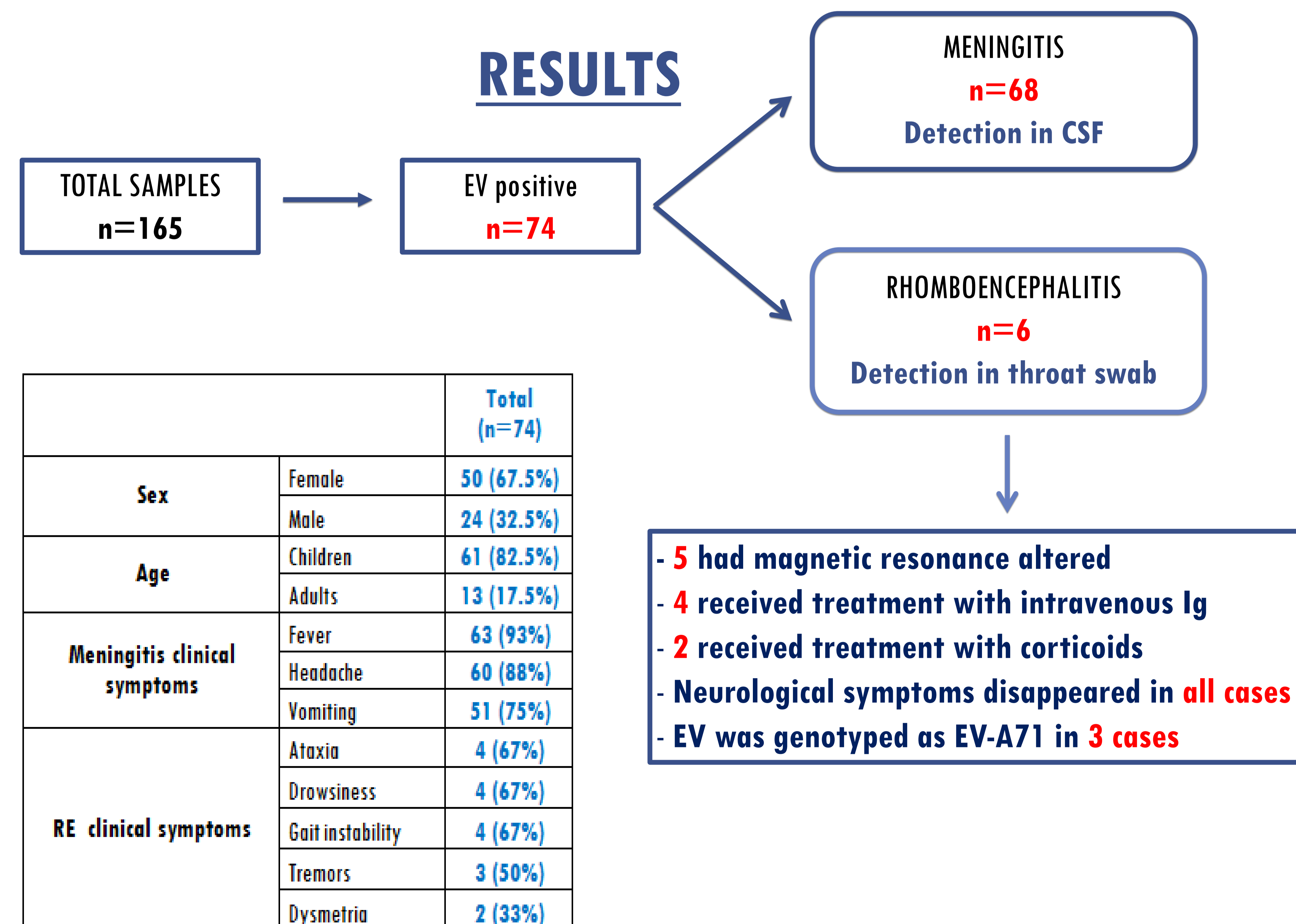
BACKGROUND

Enteroviruses (EV) belong to the *Picornaviridae* family and they are associated with a wide range of pathologies, mainly asymptomatic or benign infections, such as febrile syndrome and hand-foot and mouth disease, and less frequently respiratory, neurological or systemic diseases. Since mid-April 2016 an outbreak of enterovirus A71 (EV-A71) with associated neurological symptoms, affecting infants and very young children, has been reported in Catalonia. **The aim of this study was to describe the incidence and epidemiological characteristics of neurological EV diseases in our hospital between January and October of 2016.**

METHODS



RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS

An EV outbreak occurred from April to June of 2016 in Catalonia with pediatric cases of encephalitis/RE. This study confirms the association of EV-A71 with these severe neurological infections. In case of clinical suspicion of RE, a craniospinal MR should be performed urgently before 24h and throat and/or stool specimens should be included for EV diagnostic.