

**P0010 High prevalence of influenza positivity among patients hospitalized for influenza-like illness in the 2016-17 season**

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**Background:** Surveillance systems provide valuable information on the extent and burden of infectious diseases in real-life settings and set a basis for pandemic preparedness and the needs of health care services. The primary objective of this project was to determine the frequency of influenza infections among acute admissions with influenza like illness and to determine the rate of influenza vaccination.

**Materials/methods:** A prospective, epidemiological study was conducted in accordance with the core protocol provided by the Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network. The investigators screened the hospital admission registries, chart review or available records, and identified all patients hospitalized in the previous 24-48 hours or overnight in the predefined wards or emergency room. Two swabs per patient were obtained and real-time PCR based platforms were used to detect influenza pathogens.

**Results:** A total of 917 patients were screened and 438 patients (47.8% of the initial screened population) were found to be eligible for swabbing. The patient population had a high chronic disease burden; 84.1% of the patients 5 years and older had at least one chronic disease condition, the most prevalent one being cardiovascular disease followed by chronic obstructive lung diseases. The vaccination rate of patients for 2016-17 season was only 6.4% overall, with a rate of 12.1% among patients 5 years and older and 1.3% among patients under 5 years. Overall, influenza positivity was detected in 108 patients (24.7%) and 73.2% of these were 5 years and older (Table 1). There was no case of influenza A(H1N1). Influenza B viruses were mainly scattered among patients under 18 years of age. Distribution of viruses among different age segments is shown in Figure 1.

**Conclusions:** The most important differences from the previous year's surveillance results were the isolation of influenza A(H3N2) in 82% of the influenza positive patients and the total lack of influenza A(H1N1). Influenza virus positivity was detected in nearly one out of four patients screened for influenza like illness and swabbed during the study period. The overall influenza vaccination rate was extremely low.