

A CLINICAL COURSE OF INFLUENZA B IN HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN

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Background: Influenza is an infectious disease caused by two virus types: A and B, and the course of the disease may be influenced by the virus type.

Material and methods: We enrolled 289 children hospitalized due to laboratory-confirmed influenza in 2015-2018 period in order to compare the epidemiological features and the clinical course.

Results: Influenza A was 3-fold more frequent (216 children; 74.7%) than influenza B (73 children; 25.3%). Children hospitalized due to influenza A were younger (median age 24 vs 50.9 months). Although influenza B patients presented fever for longer period of time (4.9 vs. 4.1 days), complications such as pneumonia and central nervous system involvement were more frequent in influenza type A (24.9% vs 12.3% , and 2.1% vs 0%, respectively). Similarly, the length of hospital stay was longer in the case of influenza A (7.02 vs 6.11 days).

Conclusions: Influenza A was diagnosed more often, and was related with higher number of complications and longer hospital treatment.