Characteristics of hospitalizations associated with circulating seasonal influenza strains: Epidemiological analysis from the “Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network” (GIHSN)

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Methods

A multi-centre prospective epidemiological surveillance study in:
- Spain (5 hospitals),
- France (5 hospitals),
- Turkey (7 hospitals),
- Moscow (1 hospital) and St. Petersburg (3 hospitals) regions in the Russian Federation;

was conducted.

The flu season started globally at the end of December with a peak from week 5 to week 8 and ending week 22, 2013.

Results

Of the 9,215 patients screened, 5,034 patients were included in the analysis. Of these, 1,545 (31%) were positive for influenza. Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 was dominant (n=615), following with influenza B/Yamagata (n=436) and influenza A (H3N2) (n=262).

As presented in Figure 2, differences between countries were observed in terms of duration of the influenza season and pattern of strain circulation.

Fig. 1 Flowchart of subjects included in the GIHSN study 2012-2013 season.

Fig. 2 Number of influenza positives by epidemiological week, by site and globally.

Fig. 3 Mean length of stay in hospital of patients with an influenza strain virus.