Prevalence of Influenza B Virus in Flu Patients Referring to Health Centers in Mazandaran Province, Iran, 2011-2013

Abstract

**Background and Objective:** Influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by Influenza virus with three kinds of A, B and C. This virus spreads throughout the world and produce some epidemics with different intensities. This study aimed to determine the prevalence of influenza B in patients referring to health centers.

**Material and Methods:** this study was conducted on 878 samples in 2011-2013. Using PureLink™ Viral RNA/DNA Kit, Influenza-RNA was extracted. Then Influenza B was distinguished by using SuperScript III Platinum, Quantitive Real Time PCR System from Invitrogen™, specific primers and probs.

**Results:** the rate of Influenza B positive was %5.58 of the patients that %55.10 of them were female and %44.89 male. The highest rate was related to 31-40 and 51-60 year old patients.

**Conclusion:**
given the prevalence of influenza B virus and lack of genetic changes, it is recommended that a proper vaccine for improving immunity and effective drugs for treatment be used.

**Keywords:** Influenza B Virus; Respiratory Tract Infections; Common Cold; RT-PCR