

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

Haghshenas, MR. (PhD)

Associated professor of Virology,
Molecular and Cell Biology
Research Center, Faculty of
Medicine, Mazandaran University of
Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran

Hosseini, E.

Medical Student, Student Research
Committee, Faculty of Medicine,
Mazandaran University of Medical
Sciences, Sari, Iran

Babamahmoodi, F.(PhD)

Professor of Infectious
Disease, Antimicrobial Resistance
Research Center, Faculty of
Medicine, Mazandaran University of
Medical Sciences, Sari Iran

Nandoust-Kenari, Sh.(MSc)

MSc of Microbiology, Influenza
Lab, Faculty of Medicine,
Mazandaran University of Medical
Sciences, Sari Iran

Tabrizi, A. (BSc)

BSc of Laboratory, Influenza Lab,
Faculty of Medicine, Mazandaran
University of Medical Sciences, Sari
Iran

Corresponding Author:

Haghshenas, MR

Email:haghshenas2001@yahoo.com

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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, Quantitative Real Time PCR System from Invitrogen™, specific primers and probes.

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