

Accepted Manuscript

Virological surveillance of influenza and other respiratory viruses during six consecutive seasons from 2006 to 2012 in Catalonia, Spain

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PII: S1198-743X(16)00115-4

DOI: [10.1016/j.cmi.2016.02.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cmi.2016.02.007)

Reference: CMI 528

To appear in: *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*

Received Date: 12 August 2015

Revised Date: 10 January 2016

Accepted Date: 11 February 2016

Please cite this article as: Anton A, Marcos MA, Torner N, Isanta R, Camps M, Martinez A, Domínguez A, Jané M, Jiménez de Anta MT, Pumarola T, Virological surveillance of influenza and other respiratory viruses during six consecutive seasons from 2006 to 2012 in Catalonia, Spain, *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* (2016), doi: 10.1016/j.cmi.2016.02.007.

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1 INTRODUCTION

2 Respiratory viruses (RV) cause a significant morbidity and mortality in human
3 population. Main attention is given to the impact of seasonal outbreaks by
4 human respiratory syncytial (HRSV) and influenza viruses, but the cumulative
5 burden caused by more than other 200 known RV (picornaviruses,
6 paramyxoviruses, coronaviruses, and adenoviruses, among others) is not
7 widely appreciated [1]. In the present study the circulation and seasonality of
8 RV from 2006 to 2012 in Catalonia (Spain) are described.

9 MATERIALS AND METHODS

10 From week 40/2006 (2006-2007 season) to week 20/2012 (2011-2012 season),
11 including the 2009, 2010 and 2011 interseasonal periods, demographic
12 characteristics (gender and age) and nasopharyngeal samples were
13 systematically collected for virological diagnosis from outpatients with influenza-
14 like illness (ILI) (two first ILI consultations per week per physician), through the
15 PIDIRAC (Daily information on Acute Respiratory Illness Plan of Catalonia)
16 Sentinel Surveillance Network. ILI is defined as acute respiratory tract infection
17 presenting with sudden onset of symptoms; and at least one of the following
18 four systemic symptoms: fever or feverishness, malaise, headache, myalgia;
19 and at least one of the following three respiratory symptoms: cough, sore throat,
20 and shortness of breath, according to the European Centre for Disease
21 Prevention and Control's clinical criteria of ILI [2]. PIDIRAC Sentinel
22 Surveillance Network is based on a medical sentinel network at primary care
23 centres coordinated by the Public Health Agency of Catalonia, that covers all 7
24 Health regions in which the Catalan territory is divided into. Primary care
25 centers involved in the sampling varied from the 2006-2007 season to the 2011-

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