

Integrated approach of nonspecific surveillance in Réunion Island

Pascal Vilain^{1*}, Arnaud Bourdé², Pierre-Jean Marianne Dit Cassou³, Philippe Morbidelli⁴, Yves Jacques-Antoine⁵, Brigitte Ristor⁶ and Laurent Filleul¹

¹Regional Office of French Institute for Public Health Surveillance of Indian Ocean, Saint Denis, Reunion; ²Regional Hospital Center, Saint Denis, Reunion; ³Regional Hospital Center, Saint Pierre, Reunion; ⁴Hospital Center, Saint Paul, Reunion; ⁵Hospital Center, Saint Benoît, Reunion; ⁶National Health Insurance, Saint Denis, Reunion

Objective

To demonstrate that the different surveillance systems allow to establish complementary indicators.

Introduction

In Réunion Island, the nonspecific surveillance was developed since 2006 and was based on the activity of only one hospital emergency department and on mortality. To respond to the threat of influenza A(H1N1) pandemic emergence, this surveillance system was significantly enhanced (1,2). All hospital emergency departments of the island have been included as well as the emergency medical service regulation center (3). In 2010, a new surveillance was implemented from National Health Insurance data.

Methods

For the influenza A(H1N1) pandemic 2009, several indicators were monitored:

- number of consultations for influenza-like illness (ILI) to emergency departments of the four hospitals;
- number of call phone for ILI to the emergency medical service regulation center;
- number of consultations and home visits by general practitioners.

These indicators and their trends were described and compared to the data of sentinel network practitioners who reported the percentage of consultations for ILI.

Results

Whatever the data's source, we observed the peak of epidemic on week 35 (Fig. 1). Furthermore, trends observed were concordant for the four indicators.

Conclusions

These indicators show various levels of gravity of the influenza pandemic (phone calls, practitioner consultations and emergency consultations). These complementary data produced by these surveillance systems are widely sent to the public health network (clinicians, hospitals, etc.) and give essential pieces of knowledge about the health situation to crisis management authorities. To make a decision in terms of health planning and communication without having a quantified estimate of the risk is an unpredictable situation for the health authorities.

Keywords

Integrated approach; nonspecific; Réunion Island

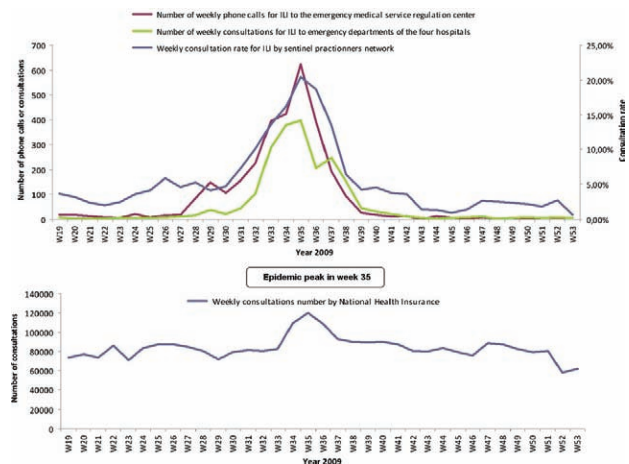


Fig. 1. Trends of different indicators during the influenza A(H1N1) pandemic in Réunion Island, 2009.

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*Pascal Vilain

E-mail: Pascal.VILAIN@ars.sante.fr