

Respiratory infections

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Diagnosis of seropositive rubella in patients hospitalized in the Military Institute of Medicine in 2017.

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Rubella is a viral disease caused by a virus of the genus Rubivirus. A person with rubella disease can be the source of the infection already a dozen or so days before the appearance of the rash. The infection is transferred via droplets, by direct contact with excretions from the nasopharyngeal cavity of the affected person or vertically during pregnancy. Since 1989 there have been compulsory vaccinations against rubella in Poland. Initially they were performed only among 13 year old girls. In 2017, from January to September, 377 cases of suspected rubella cases were reported. Among them, 112 samples were sent to the Reference Laboratory (29.7%), and the positive result for rubella was obtained only for 6 samples (that is 5.4% of samples sent for analysis and 1.6% of all cases). The low rate of laboratory confirmed cases are caused by reporting based on clinical diagnosis. As a result of this procedure, various rashes are reported as rubella. The aim of the study is to evaluate the presence of antibodies of the class IgG and IgM in the serum of patients hospitalized with in MIM between January and August 2017. In the Medical Laboratory of MIM, 42 serum anti-rubella antibody tests were performed. In all cases, the results were positive and indicated the presence of antibodies in the IgG class, while the negative results were noted for IgM antibody determination. The highest number of orders was recorded from the Gynecological Department 23.8%, followed by the Gastroenterological and Cardiological/Cardiac Surgery Unit- 11.9%, Hematologic Unit 9.5%, Neurological Unit 14.3%. Only a few cases (11,9%) were sent from dermatology, oncology ophthalmology, laryngology and paediatrics. The obtained results suggest that hospitalized MIM patients have the immunity that is likely a result of the vaccination, the mean age of hospitalized patients is 30-35 years. Currently the rubella vaccine belongs to compulsory vaccination and is performed in 13-14 month of life and then in 10 year old children irrespective of sex. The laboratory sign of new infection would be the presence of antibodies in the IgM class that has not been reported in any case in this study.