

POLISH EXPERIENCE IN THE IMOVE PROJECT

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Introduction

The I-MOVE in Europe (Influenza - Monitoring Vaccine Effectiveness) network aims at measuring influenza vaccine effectiveness in Europe. The project started in 2007. Poland participated in the I-MOVE project monitoring seasonal influenza vaccine effectiveness in the European Union and European Economic Area case control study since 2010/2011.

Methods

During 2017/18 influenza season the common protocol for seasonal influenza vaccination effectiveness (VE) using a case-control study was applied in Poland. The aim of the study was to provide age-specific VE estimates in the Polish population and to contribute to the European level pooled VE estimate.

Results

482 patients were included in the analysis: 280 influenza positive, 202 influenza negative. Among the cases there were 29 patients with type A influenza, 251 cases of influenza type B. In Poland the ILI consultation rate epidemic peak was reached in week 9. The predominant strain in the whole epidemic season was type B. The proportion of vaccinated individuals in the general population was estimated on 1,65 % at the end of the study period.

Conclusions

For the past 10 years, influenza vaccination coverage rate in Poland remains at a low 3% threshold. This low rate may be related to the unsatisfactory knowledge of vaccination, influenza, and misperception of health risks in the general population. In conclusion, the knowledge on influenza vaccination is deficient in the general population. Education on immunization should be prioritized to increase vaccination coverage rate in Poland.