

2018 to 2019 vaccine cut influenza A-linked hospitalizations

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two percent of the 1,944 children with emergency department visits were positive for influenza: 48, 35, 11, and 5 percent for A(H3N2), A(H1N1)pdm09, A (not subtyped), and B viruses, respectively. VE was 41 percent against any influenza-related hospitalizations: 41 and 47 percent for A(H3N2) and A(H1N1)pdm09, respectively. VE was 51 percent against any influenza-related emergency department visits: 39 and 61 percent against A(H3N2) and A(H1N1)pdm09, respectively.

"The vaccine was ~40 percent effective against A(H3N2)-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits, even in a season when antigenically drifted clade 3C.3a influenza viruses were the predominant circulating A(H3N2) viruses," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

(HealthDay)—The 2018 to 2019 influenza vaccine effectiveness (VE) was about 40 to 60 percent for reducing pediatric influenza A-associated hospitalizations and emergency department visits, according to a study published online Oct. 5 in *Pediatrics*.

Angela P. Campbell, M.D., M.P.H., from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and colleagues tested children aged 6 months to 17 years with acute respiratory illness for influenza using molecular assays. Vaccination status was examined based on parental report, state immunization information systems, and/or provider reports. VE was estimated using a test-negative design comparing the odds of vaccination for children testing positive versus negative for influenza.

The researchers found that 13 percent of 1,792 inpatients were influenza-positive: 47, 36, 9, and 7 percent for influenza A(H3N2), A(H1N1)pdm09, A (not subtyped), and B viruses, respectively. Twenty-

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