

3.04 Hospitalised influenza: Patterns pre- & post-pandemic in a district general hospital

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Background: Influenza is often serious with complications & significant mortality. Pandemic COVID-19 obliterated other winter viral infections. Clinicians felt pattern of influenza after pandemic was different with more complications.

Method: Admissions with primary/secondary diagnosis of influenza identified, 2018-19 & 2022-23. Forty patients selected from each group & compared. In 2018-19, 88 admissions, compared with 162, 2022-23. Latter cohort older (median (IQR) 76 (69-82) v 64 (52.5-71.2) yrs), longer length of stay (median (IQR) 8.5 (7-17.2) v 6 (2-12.2) days) & more likely to be nursing home residents (5 v 1). Sex ratio different – 16F:24M (18/19) v 24F:16M (22/23). More H3 (10 v 1) & less H1N1 (16 v 24).

Admission (1 year) mortality rates higher – 7 (12) v 1 (4). More had COPD (19 v 11), bronchiectasis (6 v 1), asthma (7 v 4), ever smoked (28 v 21), hypertension (22 v 10) & dementia (9 v 2). Other common comorbidities similar. There was more respiratory failure (17 v 9) & delirium (3 v 1); complications otherwise similar. More DNACPR (12 v 1) & requiring rehab (5 v 3).

Conclusion: Reasons for differences unclear – a feature of older cohort, more severe disease, different virus subtype or an influence of pandemic on the population?

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare they have no conflict of interest.