Protocol). Amplification was performed using Real time PCR (ABI step Real Time Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction) in the laboratory. RNA was extracted from the clinical specimens. One blood sample was collected from patients who reported an influenza like illness (ILI) sent in viral transport medium in refrigerated condition to the institute, Sri Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute, Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

**Background:** Influenza A H1N1 re-emerged in 2009 causing a pandemic and continues to circulate worldwide seasonally. This study was undertaken to characterize Influenza A H1N1 in a tertiary care center over six years.

**Methods & Materials:** Throat swabs/nasopharyngeal samples were collected from patients who reported an influenza like illness (ILI) sent in viral transport medium in refrigerated condition to the laboratory. RNA was extracted from the clinical specimens. One step Real Time Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction was performed (Ambion kit) using specific primers (INF A, universal Swine A, Swine H1 and RNaseP) and the Taqman probe (CDC protocol). Amplification was performed using Real time PCR (ABI 7900HT) system (reverse transcription for 30min at 50°C and initial activation for 10min at 95°C followed by 45 cycles of primer annealing and extension at 95°C for 15sec and 55°C for 30sec).

**Results:** A total of 2382 samples were analyzed, n = 480 (20.15%) tested positive for novel Influenza A H1N1 and n = 102 (4.28%) tested positive for seasonal influenza A. The positivity rate was 46.08% in 2009, fell to 15.02% in 2010, to 1% by 2011; was 22% in 2012 just 1.86% in 2013, 7.096% in 2014 and is currently 44.2% as of Oct 2015. The age of patients ranged from 10 days to >81 years. Influenza Ah1n1 accounted for 25.35% of ILI in children (0-18 years) of Oct 2015. The age of patients ranged from 10 days to >81 years.

**Conclusion:** There is a cyclical occurrence in the seasonality of Influenza H1N1. Vulnerable groups such as pregnant and lactating mothers may require targeted intervention.

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