

Haemophilus influenzae

Haemophilus influenzae (formerly called Pfeiffer's bacillus or *Bacillus influenzae*) is a Gram-negative, coccobacillary, facultatively anaerobic pathogenic bacterium belonging to the Pasteurellaceae family. *H. influenzae* was first described in 1892 by Richard Pfeiffer during an influenza pandemic.

The bacterium was mistakenly considered to be the cause of influenza until 1933 when the viral cause of influenza became apparent, and is still colloquially known as 'bacterial influenza'. *H. influenzae* is responsible for a wide range of localized and invasive infections. This species was the first free-living organism to have its entire genome sequenced. The sequencing project was completed and published in 1995.

Knowledge of adult patients with influenza-associated acute encephalopathy (IAE) is limited. We conducted a detailed survey to investigate the prevalence, clinical features, associated outcomes, and prognostic factors in adult IAE patients.

METHOD: A nationwide questionnaire on IAE patients was sent to the departments of Internal Medicine, Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Emergency and Critical Care at all hospitals with ≥ 200 beds in Japan.

RESULTS: 118 patients were diagnosed with IAE during the 2013/14 to 2015/16 influenza seasons, and the estimated annual incidence of IAE in Japanese adults was 0.98/1000,000 population. 44 patients were subsequently enrolled in the detailed study. 93% of patients exhibited disturbance of consciousness. Convulsions and delirious behavior were present in 26% and 40% of patients, respectively. 65% of patients received pulse corticosteroid therapy with methylprednisolone and 21% of patients received intravenous gamma-globulin therapy. 63% of patients achieved a good recovery, but 7% died. Multiple logistic regression analysis revealed that plasma glucose level demonstrated a statistically significant association with poor outcome.

CONCLUSION: This nationwide survey provided data for the annual incidence and clinical features of IAE in Japanese adults. Hyperglycemia was indicated as an independent predictor of poor prognosis in IAE patients and reflected systemic hypercytokinemia in IAE pathogenesis ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Morita A, Ishihara M, Kamei S, Okuno H, Tanaka-Taya K, Oishi K, Morishima T. Nationwide survey of influenza-associated acute encephalopathy in Japanese adults. *J Neurol Sci*. 2019 Feb 10;399:101-107. doi: 10.1016/j.jns.2019.02.004. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30798106.

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