

## ORAL ABSTRACTS

**1292. Incidence of norovirus-associated acute gastroenteritis in four Veteran's Affairs Medical Center populations in the United States, 2011-2012**

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**Background.** An estimated 179 million acute gastroenteritis (AGE) illnesses occur annually in the United States. Many AGE outbreaks attributed to norovirus occur in healthcare settings. The role of norovirus in healthcare-related AGE has important implications for the development and implementation of preventive strategies, but the burden has not been well-documented in U.S. acute care facilities. We estimated the incidence of community- and hospital-acquired norovirus AGE at four geographically distinct Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers and their associated outpatient clinics in Atlanta, GA; Bronx, NY; Houston, TX; and Los Angeles, CA.

**Methods.** From November 2011 to October 2012, stool specimens from all patients with AGE for clinician-requested diagnostic testing were stored and shipped to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for supplemental testing for the presence of norovirus. Outpatient and community- and hospital-acquired inpatient norovirus-associated AGE incidence were calculated using administrative and patient population data from each VA Center.

**Results.** Fifty (4%) of 1,160 stool specimens collected  $\leq 7$  days from symptom onset tested positive for norovirus; 6.9% of outpatient (n = 203), 6.2% of community-acquired inpatient (n = 375), and 2.2% of hospital-acquired inpatient (n = 582) samples tested positive for norovirus. Norovirus-positivity followed a seasonal pattern with 33 (66%) of norovirus-positive specimens collected between November 2011 and March 2012. During a one year period, the estimated incidence of community and hospital-acquired norovirus AGE was 200 and 62 cases/ 100,000 patients, respectively. A total of 7 norovirus genotypes were detected of which the majority (74%) was one of the GII.4 variants including GII.4 New Orleans (46%), GII.4 Minerva (14%), and GII.4 Sydney (14%). Five specimens (10%) were GI.6, a typically uncommon genotype that transiently emerged nationwide as a major disease-causing variant during this period.

**Conclusion.** This study demonstrates the incidence of community- and hospital-acquired norovirus AGE among a geographically distributed VA population.

**Disclosures.** All authors: No reported disclosures.