

6.1 Viral Encephalitis

Summary

Viral Encephalitis, not otherwise specified (NOS)
 Number of cases 2013: 6
 Number of cases 2012: 18
 Number of cases 2011: 23
 Crude incidence rate, 2011: 0.1/100,000

Encephalitis due to viruses not otherwise specified (NOS) are notifiable under the disease category 'viral encephalitis'. Details of viral encephalitis cases caused by other notifiable diseases, if any, are presented in other chapters in this report.

In 2013, only six cases of viral encephalitis (NOS) were notified in Ireland (0.1/100.000 population). This was 12 cases less than the 18 reported during the previous year (figure 1). One reason for the sharp reduction in numbers is attributable to the late notification of 15 cases from 2013 (based on their specimen dates) reported during weeks 4 to 7 in 2014 and which have been excluded from this summary analysis. It should also be noted however, that a recent paper has shown

that there was underreporting of viral encephalitis notifications in Ireland between 2005 and 2008.¹

There were twice as many viral encephalitis (NOS) cases among males (n=4), than females (n=2), a ratio of 2:1, which is the reverse of what was recorded in the previous year. Cases ranged in age from 18 months to 79 years with a median age of 61 years. Four of the six cases occurred in those aged between 54 and 79 years (figure 1, table 1).

Of the six cases reported in 2013, three were laboratory tested positive and case classified as confirmed, the remainder were classified as possible. Three of the confirmed cases had their causative organism identified, of which two were herpes simplex virus type 1 and one was human herpes virus type 6.

There were no reported deaths associated with viral encephalitis (NOS) in 2013, nor were there any imported cases in that year.

Table 1. Number, age-specific incidence rates and proportion of viral encephalitis (NOS) cases by age group, Ireland, 2013*

* excludes the late notification of 15 cases in 2013 reported in early 2014

Age Group	Causative pathogen			Total	ASIR	% Proportion
	Herpes simplex virus	Human Herpes virus type 6	Not specified			
<1	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
1-4	0	0	2	0	0.70	0.0
5-14	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
15-24	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
25-44	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
45-64	1	0	0	1	0.10	16.7
65+	1	1	1	2	0.56	33.3
All ages	2	1	3	6	0.13	100
% total cases	33.3	16.7	50.0	100		

ASIR, age specific incidence rate per 100,000 population of total cases

The figures presented in this report are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 27th August, 2014. These figures may differ from those published previously due to ongoing updating of notification data in CIDR.

Reference

1. Kelly TA, O’Lorcain P, Moran J, Garvey P, McKeown P, Connell J, Cotter S. Underreporting of viral encephalitis and viral meningitis, Ireland, 2005-2008. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2013;19(9):1428-36

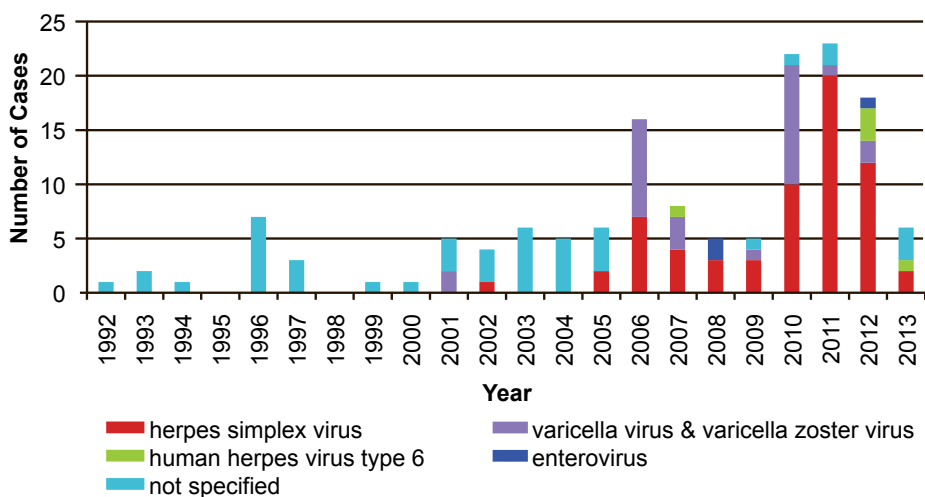


Figure 1. Number of viral encephalitis (NOS) cases by age group and year, Ireland, 1992-2013*

* excludes the late notification of 15 cases in 2013 reported in early 2014

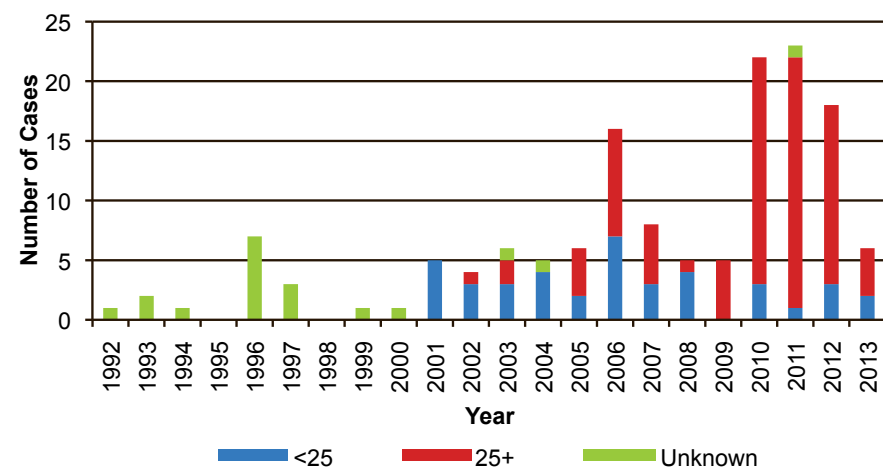


Figure 2. Number of viral encephalitis (NOS) cases by causative pathogen and year, Ireland, 1992-2013*

* excludes the late notification of 15 cases in 2013 reported in early 2014