

Editor's Comment:

1. Incomplete methodology of abstract
2. Query related to Health services are not satisfactory. Especially in terms of affectivity, method of standardization, detection etc.
3. Nothing is said on how samples are collected in the field and what measures are taken to ensure that they are well preserved before arrival at the lab.
4. Authors revised 2,089 cases; however, only 348 (line 145) were confirmed as influenza affected subjects by the laboratory. What about the remaining 1,741 ILI?
5. Some conclusions are needed to confirm the influenza disease to draw firm conclusion.
6. Lines 106-107 "there was an association between signs and symptoms documented by prescribers and confirmed influenza positive laboratory results" revise this.
7. Comparison of both the groups is needed to be done.
8. Line 204-210 requires re-writing.

Authors' Feedback:

1. The first part of the methodology under the abstract that got truncated was replaced with the following;

"A cross-sectional study was conducted with 2,089 anonymized case-based records."
2. The influenza surveillance system used for the study was not universal but rather sentinel sites where supervision and quality of data is much better compared to the universal system.
3. Lines 102 – 105; Type of specimen collected and storage conditions or procedures duly explained.
4. Lines 105 – 108; The protocol which was in use made laboratory investigations of ILI cases to focus only on influenza viruses. However, it is worth noting for Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) patients, who did not form part of this study, a negative test for Influenza virus was further investigated for Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Adenovirus and Parainfluenza Virus.
5. Lines 82 – 83: inserted.... "Laboratory investigations were conducted at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research which is a WHO accredited laboratory."

Line 242 - 243: Deleted the following statement to make the conclusion much clearer..... "but the ILI case definition encourages clinicians to look out for other respiratory signs."
6. Lines 116 – 118: Rephrased to read "We tested the hypothesis that signs and symptoms were predictive for confirmed influenza infection at 95% confidence interval".
7. Lines 117 – 118: inserted..... "The comparative groups of interest were Influenza-positive ILIs and Influenza-negative ILIs."
8. Lines 216 – 219: Previous Lines 204-210 rephrased to Lines 216 - 219