Influenza queries from Internet medical databases by healthcare professionals

• To detect epidemics, data are typically gathered from several data sources
• Could healthcare professionals’ online searches be used to supplement surveillance?

• In Finland, most healthcare professionals use one commercial web portal for medical information
• Openings on influenza were assessed to evaluate influenza outbreaks
• A similarity between healthcare professionals’ openings and register-based data was found
• Medical searches by healthcare professionals could be used to supplement surveillance

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