

## Abstract 167

### UNDERSTANDING THE PROPENSITY TO UNDERGO GENETIC TESTING IN PATIENTS AFFECTED BY INHERITED RETINAL DISEASES: A TWELVE-ITEM QUESTIONNAIRE

Oral

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#### **Purpose:**

The aim of our study is to investigate the propensity of Italian patients affected by IRDs to undergo genetic testing.

#### **Methods:**

One hundred and thirty-two patients diagnosed with IRDs referred to Italian Retina Onlus were enrolled from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 in this cross-sectional study to answer to a twelve-item questionnaire.

#### **Results:**

One hundred and four patients were aware of the possibility of taking a genetic test, and 94 of them did. Most of genetically tested patients (93.6%) had been informed about advantages and limitations of genetic investigation. The most common reason for undergoing genetic testing was to gather information for their relatives, while the one for not taking the test was lack of someone who encourages them to do so. Most of genetically tested patients believed that the results could aid in the search for a treatment. Almost all patients (98.9%) performed the test through the Italian National Health System.

#### **Conclusions:**

Our study investigated the tendency of Italian patients affected by IRDs to undergo genetic testing, highlighting the importance of educating both patients and healthcare professionals on this topic.