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Genetic Counseling Experience of Patients Referred for Hereditary Cancer Panel Testing

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ABSTRACT At least 10 percent of cancers occur in patients who carry a mutation in a known cancer susceptibility gene. This makes screening the at-risk individuals necessary in order to make it possible to offer risk-reducing options. This kind of susceptibility testing makes genetic counseling a necessity. The aim of the present paper is to report some properties obtained from the pre-test and post-test genetic counseling sessions; along with basic distribution statistics and to document the genetic counseling aspects of 500 patients referred to the Medical Genetics clinic in order to obtain genetic counseling and if performed, genetic testing. The genetic counseling aspects were documented with respect to demographic data of the patients, the test results and responses to these results were evaluated. The data obtained from this study support the need for detailed genetic counseling.