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PATIENTS' SATISFACTION ASSESSMENT IN WAMD MANAGEMENT: AN ITALIAN PATIENT SURVEY (THE SWAN STUDY)

Oral

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Purpose:

Despite anti-VEGF proven clinical efficacy in wAMD, the number of follow up visits as well as frequency of injections represent a substantial burden for patients, caregivers, physicians and the healthcare system.

Patients' satisfaction in the whole disease management is crucial to increase their engagement in treatment and ultimately clinical outcomes.

Methods:

SWAN study is a cross-sectional real-world evidence study to assess the satisfaction of patients treated with currently available anti-VEGFs in Italy. Two questionnaires were used to explore patient's satisfaction: Macular Disease Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire (MacTSQ) and a new Novartis-developed tailored Treatment Satisfaction questionnaire (NVS -TTSQ). This one was specifically created for the SWAN study involving a focus group of wAMD patients and expert patients as advisors. Both questionnaires were administered during a phone call, leveraging an innovative artificial intelligence digital system, able to collect patient's answers and convert it into measurable data.

Results:

181 patients in five centers across Italy were enrolled into the study. According to NVS – TTSQ, patients were satisfied on their disease management especially on how they were diagnosed and on they were informed about treatment administration [median (min-max): 41 (20-54)]. Patients treated > 1 year reported more need to ask for advice on their disease management especially than patients treated < 1 year [median 5 vs 3]. Patients that have received less than 6 IVIs declared less need to discuss about disease management than patients that have received more than 6 injections [median 4.5 vs 3].

Conclusions:

Italian patients are overall satisfied about disease management. Nevertheless, patients treated for more than one year, who received more than six injections expressed the need for additional information on their disease. This highlights how communicating chronicity and management of a chronic condition like wAMD might be further improved.