Pediatric Low Vision in Greece: Data from an ERG unit

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Purpose

To delineate the etiologies of pediatric low vision in Greece, focusing on retinal degenerations prevalence, since timely identification and diagnosis play a vital role in facilitating prompt visual rehabilitation at the crucial stages of visual development.

Results

- 535 children were included in the study, with a mean age of 11 years (range 3 mo-16 yo)
- 49% (264 pts) presented with low vision attributed to a form of retinal degeneration

➢ The most common retinal degeneration was retinitis pigmentosa (15%), followed by Stargardt's disease (10%), cone-rod dystrophies (8%) and Leber's congenital amaurosis (4%)

➢ The rest 51% (271 pts) was found to be related to other pathologies like optic neuritis (13%), optic atrophy (8%), congenital nystagmus (6%) and Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy (4%)

Diagnosis	%
Retinitis Pigmentosa	15%
Stargardt Disease	10%
Cone-rode dystrophy	8%
LCA	4%
Optic atrophy	8%
Optic neuritis	13%
LHON	4%
Nystagmus	6%

Methods

- A retrospective evaluation of the ERG records of the Electrophysiology Unit of the Department of Ophthalmology, Aghia Sophia Children's Hospital
- Children examined between 2007-2020 that were referred to the Electrophysiology Unit for low vision investigation or inherited retinal degeneration identification

Conclusion

- Causes of low vision, such as retinal degenerations, require a thorough physician's investigation
- It is crucial to focus on the medical history, specifically on symptoms like light sensitivity and night blindness, to narrow down the differential diagnosis
- Prompt diagnosis of children with low vision may result in early interventions and enhance their quality of life