

Genetic counselling in a certified Prostate Cancer Center in Southern Switzerland (CPSI): single center experience

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Introduction

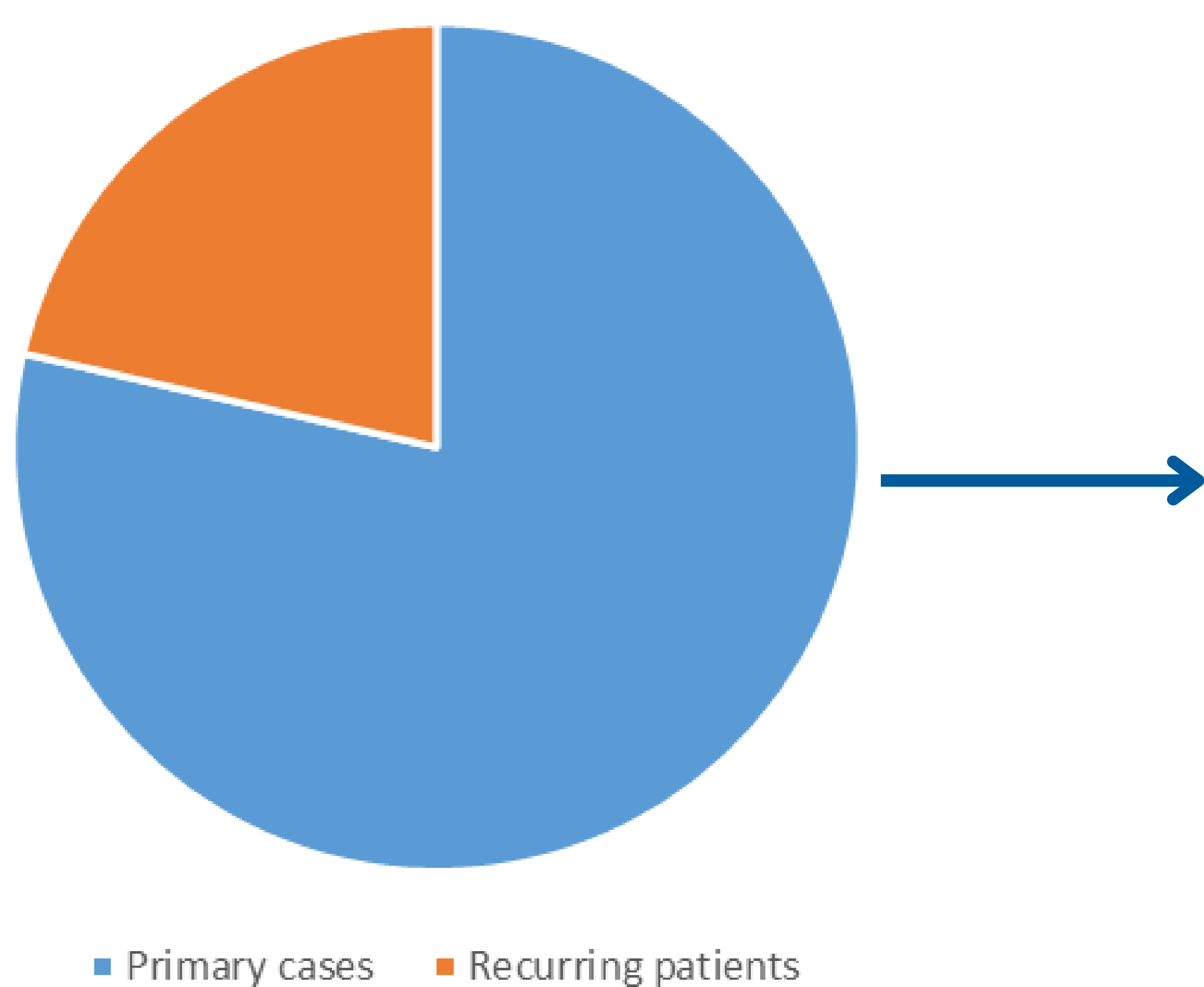
Effective management of prostate cancer (PCa) is becoming increasingly complex as advances in urologic surgeries, radiotherapy techniques, and medical oncology evolve rapidly. Addressing this challenge requires a multidisciplinary approach, with tumor boards (TB) playing a pivotal role in ensuring high diagnostic and therapeutic standards. To achieve this goal, integrating genetic counselling (GC) and germline genetic testing (GT) has become crucial.

Methods

We report our experience of GC and testing since the certification of CPSI in 2021. We analyzed our center data to report GCs performed according to TB's recommendations.

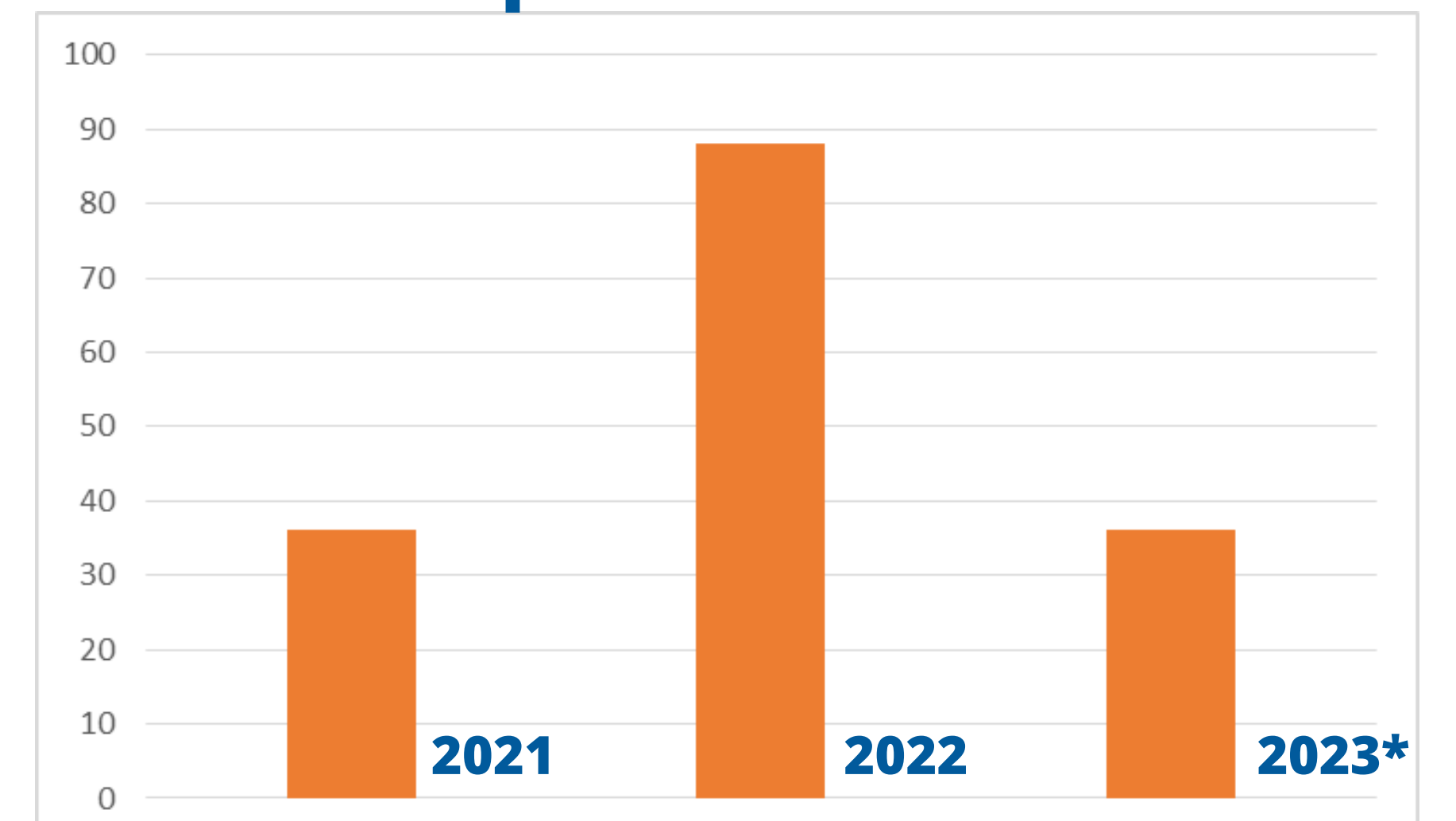
Results

Between January 2021 and April 2023, our TB discussed a total of 520 PCa primary cases and 142 recurring patients, of which 281 patients received an indication for GC according to international guidelines. Actually 160 (57%) PCa patients received GC [in 2021 (n=36), 2022 (n=88), and the first quarter of 2023 (n=36)]. Of these 160 patients counselled, 94 (59%) underwent GT [in 2021 (n=21), in 2022 (n=62), and in 2023 (n=11)]. We have observed that the number of GC consultations is on the rise, potentially due to our PCa center physicians' growing awareness of GC's importance and the expansion of GC from secondary oncology centers.

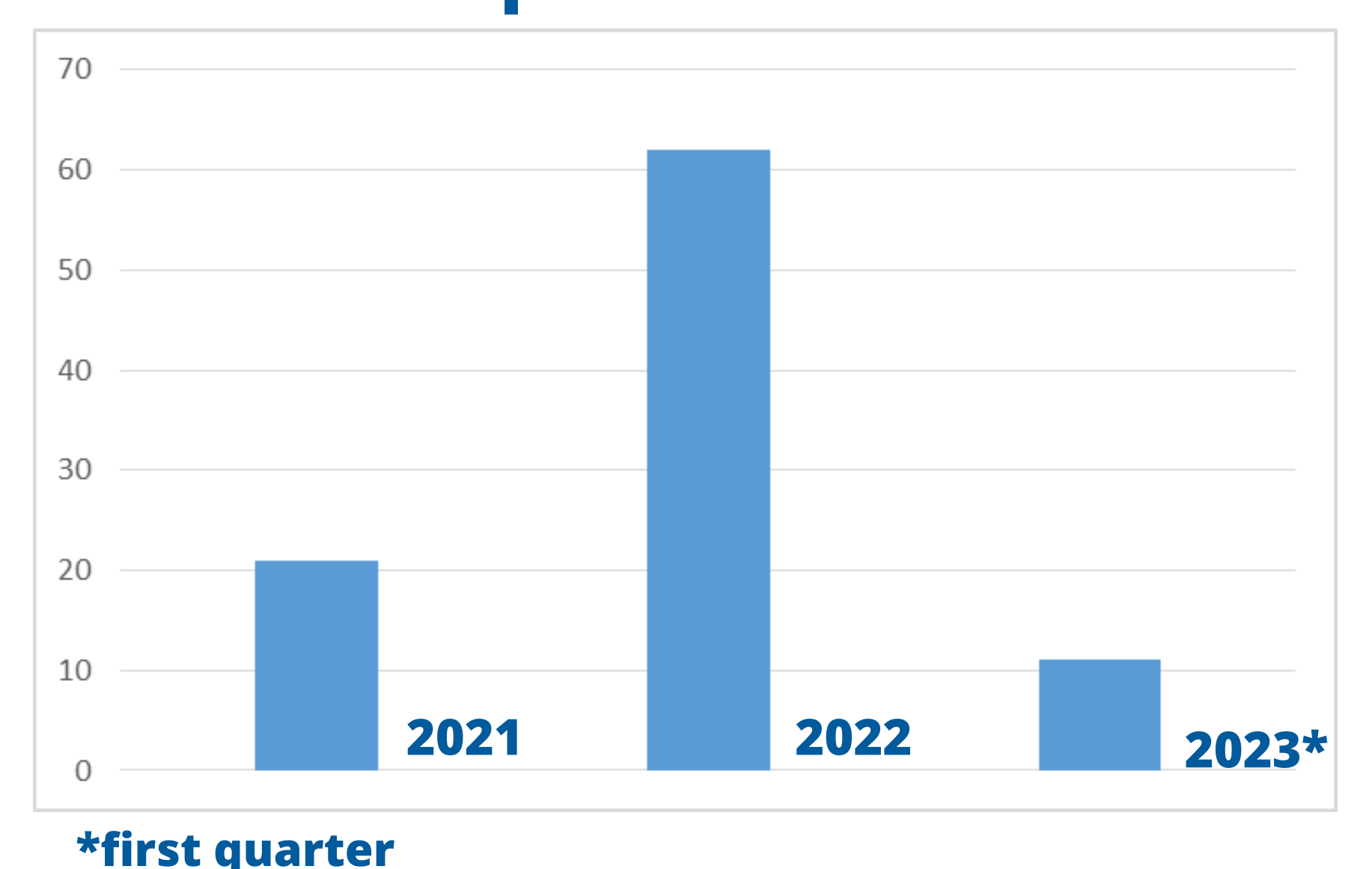


281 patients referred to the genetic counselling

Number of patients referred to GC



Number of patients referred to GT



*first quarter

Conclusions

We strongly believe major efforts should be made to raise awareness of GC's importance for PCa patients. The percentage of patients counselled may be integrated as a future quality indicator for a certified PCa center. No funding was received for this analysis.