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Information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in the study

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The guarantors of this manuscript confirm that all persons designated as authors qualify for authorship, and that each author has participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

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3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations:
• Asahito Hama and Seiji Kojima were responsible for pathological central review and diagnosis of the patients.
• Yoshiyuki Kosaka, Ryoji Kobayashi, Hiromasa Yabe, Takashi Kaneko, Masahiro Tsuchida, Akira Ohara, Tatsutoshi Nakahata and Seiji Kojima were responsible for the conception of the IST regimen and clinical management and collection of the data.
• Nao Yoshida, Hiroshi Yagasaki and Yoshiyuki Takahashi were responsible for analyzing data.
• All authors reviewed the manuscript and performed a critical revision of the paper.

4) Results. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables:
• Nao Yoshida and Seiji Kojima were responsible for all the results section, including all figure and tables.
• All authors contributed to critical review of the results.

5) Writing the manuscript. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:
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