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Authors: Paola Bianchi, Elisa Fermo, Cristina Vercellati, Anna P. Marcello, Laura Porretti, Agostino Cortelezz, Wilma Barcellini, Alberto Zanella

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

1) Guarantor(s), i.e., person(s) who is (are) responsible for the integrity of the work as a whole:
   • Paola Bianchi, Hematology 2 Unit, Foundation IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Via Francesco Sforza, 35, 20122 Milan, Italy, E-mail: paola.bianchi@policlinico.mi.it
   • Alberto Zanella, Hematology 2 Unit, Foundation IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Via Francesco Sforza, 35, 20122 Milan, Italy, E-mail: zanella@policlinico.mi.it

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2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study: Paola Bianchi, Alberto Zanella, Elisa Fermo

3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations
   • Cristina Vercellati was responsible for osmotic fragility tests and red cell membrane analysis
   • Anna P Marcello was responsible for laboratory investigations and osmotic fragility tests
   • Laura Porretti was responsible for flow cytometric analysis
   • Wilma Barcellini was responsible for patients recruitment and follow up.

4) Results. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables:
   • Paola Bianchi and Elisa Fermo were responsible for Results including all Figures and Tables.

5) Writing the manuscript. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:
   • Paola Bianchi and Elisa Fermo were responsible for writing the manuscript.
   • Alberto Zanella, Wilma Barcellini and Agostino Cortelezz were responsible for critical revision of the manuscript.

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