“CD20 expression has no prognostic role in Philadelphia-negative B-precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia: new insights from the molecular study of minimal residual disease”

Authors: Francesco Mannelli, Giacomo Gianfaldoni, Tamara Intermesoli, Chiara Cattaneo, Erika Borlenghi, Sergio Cortelazzo, Irene Cavattoni, Enrico Maria Pogliani, Monica Fumagalli, Emanuele Angelucci, Claudio Romani, Fabio Ciceri, Consuelo Corti, Anna Scattolin, Agostino Cortelezzì, Daniele Mattei, Ernesta Audisio, Orietta Spinelli, Elena Oldani, Alberto Bosi, Alessandro Rambaldi and Renato Bassan

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:
   • Francesco Mannelli, University of Florence, manelli.francesco@libero.it

According to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html): “Authorship credit should be based on: 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3 …………………… Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship”.

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.

2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study: Francesco Mannelli, Giacomo Gianfaldoni, Renato Bassan

3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations:
   • Orietta Spinelli, Renato Bassan and Alessandro Rambaldi conducted the minimal residual disease study

4) Results. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables:
   • Tamara Intermesoli, Chiara Cattaneo, Erika Borlenghi, Sergio Cortelazzo, Irene Cavattoni, Enrico Maria Pogliani, Monica Fumagalli, Emanuele Angelucci, Claudio Romani, Fabio Ciceri, Consuelo Corti, Anna Scattolin, Agostino Cortelezzì, Daniele Mattei, Ernesta Audisio, Alberto Bosi, Alessandro Rambaldi were responsible for management of patients and discussion of results.

5) Writing the manuscript. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:
   • Francesco Mannelli
   • Giacomo Gianfaldoni
   • Renato Bassan

6) Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:
Istituto Toscano Tumori, Regione Toscana, Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze and AIL Bergamo (Sezione “Paolo Belli”) provided financial support to this study. Dr Giovanni Longo provided valuable collaboration in statistical analysis.