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2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study: Yoshiko Atsuta, Junya Kanda, Minoko Takanashi, Yasuo Morishima, and Yoshinobu Kanda

3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations:
- Yoshiko Atsuta, Junya Kanda, and Yoshinobu Kanda were responsible for the design, definitions of variables and method of analyses
- Minoko Takanashi and Yasuo Morishima were responsible for the design and definitions of variables
- Shuichi Taniguchi, Satoshi Takahashi, Hiroyasu Ogawa, Kazuteru Ohashi, Yuju Ohno, Yasushi Onishi, and Nobuyuki Aotsuka were responsible for data acquisition and organization the dataset for analyses
- Tokiko Nagamura-Inoue and Koji Kato were responsible for data review and organization of data for analyses

4) Results. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables:
- Yoshiko Atsuta was responsible for statistical analyses and making all tables and figures
- Junya Kanda and Yoshinobu Kanda were responsible for confirmation analyses and interpretation of results
- Minoko Takanashi, Yasuo Morishima and Satoshi Takahashi were responsible for interpretation of results

5) Writing the manuscript. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:
- Yoshiko Atsuta, Junya Kanda, Minoko Takanashi, Yasuo Morishima, and Yoshinobu Kanda were responsible for drafting and revising the whole manuscript
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