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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.

2) **Authors who participated in the conception of the study:** Ugo Lucca, Mauro Tettamanti, Giovanni Apolone, Paola Mosconi, Emma Riva.

3) **Design & Methods.** The following authors were responsible for specific investigations:

- Ugo Lucca, Mauro Tettamanti, Giovanni Apolone, Paola Mosconi, Emma Riva were responsible for study design.
- Ugo Lucca, Francesca Gandini, Alessandro Nobili, Adriano Giacomini, Mario Clerico, Patrizia Tempia, Luigi Savoia, Gilberto Fasolo, Luisa Ponchio, Matteo G Della Porta, Emma Riva were responsible for reviewing clinical data.
- Emma Riva was responsible for coordinating the research.
- Francesca Gandini was responsible for data management and data entry.
- Maria Vittoria Tallone and Paolo Detoma were responsible for laboratory analyses.
- Mauro Tettamanti and Angela Recchia were responsible for statistical analyses.

4) **Results.** The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables:

- Mauro Tettamanti, Ugo Lucca, Francesca Gandini, Angela Recchia, Paola Mosconi, Giovanni Apolone, Alessandro Nobili, Maria Vittoria Tallone, Paolo Detoma, Adriano Giacomini, Mario Clerico, Patrizia Tempia, Luigi Savoia, Gilberto Fasolo, Emma Riva were responsible for data collection and interpretation.
- Ugo Lucca, Mauro Tettamanti, Angela Recchia, Emma Riva were responsible for all Tables and Figures.
- Emma Riva, Luisa Ponchio, Matteo G Della Porta, Ugo Lucca, Angela Recchia, Mauro Tettamanti were responsible for Table 3.

- Emma Riva, Luisa Ponchio, Matteo G Della Porta were responsible for the classification of anemia type.

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

- Ugo Lucca was responsible for writing the manuscript.
- Mauro Tettamanti, Ugo Lucca, Francesca Gandini, Angela Recchia, Paola Mosconi, Giovanni Apolone, Alessandro Nobili, Maria Vittoria Tallone, Paolo Detoma, Adriano Giacomini, Mario Clerico, Patrizia Tempia, Luigi Savoia, Gilberto Fasolo, Luisa Ponchio, Matteo G Della Porta, Emma Riva were responsible for revising the manuscript and approving the final submitted version of it.

#### 6) **Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:**

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