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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:

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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**: Alessia Pepe.

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

- Alessia Pepe and Aurelio Maggio were responsible for study design, data acquisition and analysis.
- Antonella Meloni and Giuseppe Rossi were responsible for statistical analysis.

- Marcello Capra, Paolo Cianciulli, Luciano Prossomariti, Cristina Malaventura, Maria Caterina Putti, Alma Lippi, Maria Antonietta Romeo, Maria Grazia Bisconte, Aldo Filosa, Vincenzo Caruso, Antonella Quarta, Lorella Pitrolo, Massimiliano Missere, Massimo Midiri, and Massimo Lombardi were responsible for data acquisition.

- Vincenzo Positano was responsible for data analysis.

4) **Results.** The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables (please indicate the person responsible for each figure and each table):

- Antonella Meloni was responsible for each figure and each table.

- Alessia Pepe and Aurelio Maggio were responsible for data interpretation.

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

- Alessia Pepe was responsible for writing the manuscript.

- Antonella Meloni, Marcello Capra, Paolo Cianciulli, Luciano Prossomariti, Cristina Malaventura, Maria Caterina Putti, Alma Lippi, Maria Antonietta Romeo, Maria Grazia Bisconte, Aldo Filosa, Vincenzo Caruso, Antonella Quarta, Lorella Pitrolo, Massimiliano Missere, Massimo Midiri, Giuseppe Rossi, Vincenzo Positano, Massimo Lombardi, and Aurelio Maggio were responsible for manuscript revision.

6) **Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:**

- Cristina Salvatori developed the MIOT database.

- Claudia Santarlaschi executed the secretarial work.

- Alison Frank assisted in editing the manuscript.

- Vincenzo De Sanctis, Calogera Gerardi, Antonella Pietrangelo, Salvatore Grimaldi, Gaetano Roccamo, Anna Meo, Michele Rizzo, Domenico Maddaloni enrolled the patients and collected the clinical data.

- Luigi Natale and Gianluca Valeri acquired and collected MRI data.