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Authors: Domenico Girelli, Paola Trombini, Fabiana Busti, Natascia Campostrini, Marco Sandri, Sara Pelucchi, Mark Westerman, Tomas Ganz, Elizabeta Nemeth, Alberto Piperno, Clara Camaschella.

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:
• Domenico Girelli, Department of Medicine, University of Verona, Policlinico G.B. Rossi, 37134 Verona, Italy, domenico.girelli@univr.it

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2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study:

- Domenico Girelli, Alberto Piperno and Clara Camaschella designed the study.
- Tomas Ganz and Elizabeta Nemeth helped in the design of the study.

3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations (please detail):

- Paola Trombini, Fabiana Busti and Sara Pelucchi were responsible for recruiting patients and contribute to analyze the data.
- Marco Sandri was responsible for statistical analysis.
- **Mark Westerman was responsible for analyzing hepcidin with ELISA method.**
- Natascia Campostrini was responsible for hepcidin assay using Mass Spectrometry.

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):

- Fabiana Busti was responsible for Figure 1
- Marco Sandri was responsible for Figure 2
- Fabiana Busti, Natascia Campostrini, Paola Trombini and Elizabeta Nemeth were responsible for Tabel 1.

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

- Domenico Girelli, Alberto Piperno and Clara Camaschella were responsible for writing the paper.
- Tomas Ganz and Elizabeta Nemeth were responsible for co-writing the text.

6) Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:

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