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Authors: Ilaria Del Giudice, Francesca Romana Mauro, Maria Stefania De Propris, Simona Santangelo, Marilisa Marinelli, Nadia Peragine, Valeria Di Maio, Mauro Nanni, Rita Barzotti, Francesca Mancini, Daniele Armiento, Francesca Paoloni, Anna Guarini, Robin Foà

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:
• Prof. Robin Foà, Division of Hematology, Department of Cellular Biotechnologies and Hematology, , "Sapienza" University, Via Benevento 6 00161 Rome (Italy). Tel. +39-06-85795753; Fax. +39-06-85795792; e-mail: rfoa@bce.uniroma1.it

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2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study: Ilaria Del Giudice, Robin Foà, Division of Hematology, Department of Cellular Biotechnologies and Hematology, Sapienza" University, Via Benevento 6 00161 Rome (Italy). Tel. +39-06-85795753; Fax. +39-06-85795792; e-mail: delgiudice@bce.uniroma1.it; rfoa@bce.uniroma1.it

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

- Ilaria Del Giudice was responsible for the acquisition, analysis and interpretation of the data
- Maria Stefania De Propris and Anna Guarini were responsible for immunophenotype
- Simona Santangelo and Anna Guarini were responsible for molecular analysis of IGHV genes rearrangements
- Marilisa Marinelli and Anna Guarini were responsible for the molecular analysis of *TP53* gene mutations
- Nadia Peragine and Valeria Di Maio were responsible for the collection and centralization of patients samples
- Mauro Nanni and Rita Barzotti were responsible for FISH analysis
- Francesca Mancini was responsible for peripheral blood morphology
- Daniele Armiento was responsible for the acquisition of data
- Francesca Paoloni was responsible for the statistical analysis
- Francesca Romana Mauro, Robin Foà and Anna Guarini were responsible for the analysis and interpretation of the data.

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):

- Ilaria Del Giudice, Maria Stefania De Propris, Simona Santangelo, Marilisa Marinelli, Mauro Nanni, Rita Barzotti, Francesca Mancini, were responsible for *Clinical and biological features of CLL at diagnosis*
- Ilaria Del Giudice and Francesca Paoloni were responsible for *Risk factors for TFS in univariate analysis*
- Ilaria Del Giudice and Francesca Paoloni were responsible for *Multivariate analysis of TFS in stage A CLL*
- Ilaria Del Giudice was responsible for Table 1 and supplementary Table S1
- Francesca Paoloni was responsible for Table 2 and supplementary Table S2
- Francesca Paoloni was responsible for Figure 1 and supplementary Figure S1, S2, S3
- Francesca Romana Mauro, Robin Foà and Anna Guarini were responsible for the interpretation of the results.

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

- Ilaria Del Giudice was responsible for writing the manuscript;
- Robin Foà, Anna Guarini and Francesca Romana Mauro were responsible for the revision of the manuscript.

6) **Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:** (Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support. Corresponding authors must declare whether they had assistance with the study design, data collection, data analysis, or manuscript preparation. If such assistance was available, the authors must disclose the identity of the individuals who provided this assistance and the entity that supported it. Financial and material support should also be acknowledged.)

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