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**Information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in the study**

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**2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study:** Andrés J.M. Ferreri , Claudio Doglioni, Maurilio Ponzoni , Francesco Bertoni

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

- Ivo Kwee: analysed data
- Paola M. V. Rancoita: analysed data
- Andrea Rinaldi: analysed data
- Govind Bhagat: collected and characterised samples
- Randy D. Gascoyne: collected and characterised samples
- Vincenzo Canzonieri: collected and characterised samples
- Gianluca Gaidano: collected and characterised samples
- Andrés J.M. Ferreri: collected and characterised samples
- Claudio Doglioni: collected and characterised samples
- Emanuele Zucca: collected and characterised samples, analysed data
- Maurilio Ponzoni: collected and characterised samples; analysed and interpreted data
- Francesco Bertoni: analysed and interpreted data

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

- Ivo Kwee: prepared Figure 1, Supplementary Table 2
- Francesco Bertoni: prepared Figure 2, Supplementary Table 2

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

- Ivo Kwee: critically revised the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript
- Paola M. V. Rancoita: critically revised the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript
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- Randy D. Gascoyne: critically revised the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript
- Vincenzo Canzonieri: critically revised the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript
- Gianluca Gaidano: critically revised the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript
- Andrés J.M. Ferreri: critically revised the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript
- Claudio Doglioni: critically revised the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript
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- Maurilio Ponzoni: co-drafted the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript
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