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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:** Chiara Cerletti, Giovanni de Gaetano, Maria Benedetta Donati, Licia Iacoviello.

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

- Augusto Di Castelnuovo and Iolanda Santimone were responsible for data analysis
- Daniela Cugino, Amalia De Curtis and Maria Spinelli were responsible for samples handling, biobanking and laboratory determination
- Francesco Gianfagna and Francesco Zito were responsible for the epidemiological study management.

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):

- Augusto Di Castelnuovo, Licia Iacoviello and Iolanda Santimone were responsible for tables 1-3, S2 and Figures 1, 2 and S2.
- Francesco Gianfagna, Iolanda Santimone and Francesco Zito were responsible for Table S1.
- Amalia De Curtis, Francesco Gianfagna and Iolanda Santimone were responsible for Figures S1, S3

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

- Augusto Di Castelnuovo, Licia Iacoviello and Iolanda Santimone were responsible for writing the manuscript
- Chiara Cerletti, Maria Benedetta Donati and Giovanni de Gaetano were responsible for revising the manuscript critically for important intellectual content and for final approval of the version to be published.

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