

**Manuscript no. HAEMATOL/2011/046748 entitled “Variants in genetic modifiers of beta-thalassemia can help to predict the major or intermedia type of the disease”**

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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: Catherine Badens, Philippe Joly and Serge Pissard

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

- Katia Gonnet performed alpha-thalassemia molecular analysis
- Imane Agouti and Synda Fattoum performed SNP analysis

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

- Anderson Loundou and Marie Claude Simeoni were responsible for the statistical analysis and Table 2
- Isabelle Thuret was responsible for clinical data collection and Table 1
- Catherine Badens was responsible for scoring and Figure 1

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

- Catherine Badens wrote the manuscript. All authors contributed to critical revision and final approval of the version to be published

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The French registry for Thalassemia patients is supported by The Institut de Veille Sanitaire and the Institut Pour la Recherche Médicale et la Santé.