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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**: Anna Guarini, Robin Foà

- 3) **Design & Methods**. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations:
- Marilisa Marinelli, Monia Magliozzi, and Isabella Torrente were responsible for *ATM* gene sequence and dosage data
  - Simona Tavolaro and Sabina Chiaretti were responsible for gene profile data
  - Emanuele Bellacchio was responsible for *ATM* point mutation modeling
  - Maria Stefania Depropis was responsible for flow cytometry analysis
  - Simona Santangelo and Nadia Peragine were responsible for IGHV and TP53 sequencing
  - Mauro Nanni was responsible for FISH analysis
  - Francesca Paoloni was responsible for statistical analysis
  - Francesca Romana Mauro and Ilaria del Giudice were responsible for clinical assistance to patients.

- 4) **Results**. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables:
- Marilisa Marinelli, Monia Magliozzi, and Isabella Torrente were responsible for Table 1, Table 2, Supplementary Table 1 and Supplementary Table 3
  - Francesca Paoloni was responsible for Figure 1
  - Simona Tavolaro and Sabina Chiaretti were responsible for Figures 2, 3, Supplementary Figure 2, Supplementary Table 2, Supplementary Table 4 and Supplementary Table 5
  - Emanuele Bellacchio was responsible for Figure 4, and Supplementary Figure 1.

- 5) **Writing the manuscript**. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:
- Anna Guarini and Robin Foà were responsible for writing Introduction and the Discussion.

- Marilisa Marinelli was responsible for writing the section of Design and Methods entitled “CLL patients”, as well as “Relationship between *ATM* gene mutations and prognostic factors” in the Results section
- Monia Magliozzi and Isabella Torrente were responsible for writing the sections of Design and Methods entitled “DHPLC analysis of *ATM* gene” and “MLPA analysis of *ATM* gene”. as well as “DHPLC analysis for *ATM* mutations and MLPA analysis for *ATM* deletions/duplications” in the Results section
- Francesca Paoloni was responsible for writing the section of Design and Methods entitled “Statistical analysis of TFI” as well as “Relationship between *ATM* gene mutations and prognostic factors” in the Results section
- Simona Tavolaro and Sabina Chiaretti were responsible for writing the section of Design and Methods entitled “RNA extraction and oligonucleotide microarray”, “Statistical methods for microarray analysis”, “Real-time quantitative PCR analysis” as well as “Microarray analysis in CLL cells with *ATM* point mutations”, “Microarray analysis in CLL cells with *ATM* deletions”, “Validation of gene expression data by Q-PCR analysis” in the Results section
- Emanuele Bellacchio was responsible for writing the section of Design and Methods entitled “Molecular modeling of the *ATM* kinase domain”, as well as “*ATM* protein mutations modeling” in the results section

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