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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:
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According to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html): “*Authorship credit should be based on: 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3 Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship*”.

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2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study: Enrica Rampazzo, Laura Bonaldi, Livio Trentin, Carlo Visco, Gianpietro Semenzato, Anita De Rossi

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

- Livio Trentin responsible for samples collection and clinical information.
- Gianpietro Semenzato responsible for samples collection and clinical information.
- Carlo Visco for responsible for samples collection and clinical information.
- Laura Bonaldi responsible for cytogenetic studies.
- Enrica Rampazzo responsible for research on telomere and telomerase.
- Sonia Keppel responsible for research on telomere and telomerase.
- Silvia Giunco responsible for research on telomere and telomerase.
- Federica Frezzato responsible for cytofluorimetric and IgVH analyses.
- Monica Facco responsible for cytofluorimetric and IgVH analyses.
- Elisabetta Novella responsible for cytofluorimetric and IgVH analyses.
- Ilaria Giaretta responsible for cytofluorimetric and IgVH analyses.
- Paola Del Bianco responsible for statistical analyses.

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):

- Enrica Rampazzo responsible for research on telomere, telomerase and data analysis (Figures 1,2,3,4,5,6, Supplementary Figure 1 and Tables 1,2,3,4,5)
- Laura Bonaldi responsible for evaluation of genetic studies (Figures 3,4,6; Supplementary Figure 1 and Tables 1,3,5)
- Paola Del Bianco responsible for statistical analyses (Figures 5,6; Supplementary Figure 1 and Tables 1-5)
- Livio Trentin responsible clinical information and data analysis (Figure 2,3,4,6; Supplementary, Tables 2-5)
- Carlo Visco for responsible for clinical information and data analysis(Figure 2,3,4,6; Supplementary, Tables 2-5)

- Anita De Rossi for responsible for collection, organization , and evaluation of data (v evaluation of data (Figures 1,2,3,4,5,6; Supplementary Figure 1 and Tables 1,2,3,4,5)

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

- Anita De Rossi supervised the study and wrote the paper with the contribution of all co-authors.

6) **Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:**

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