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2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study: Vito Di Marco, Massimo Levrero, Antonio Craxi

3) Design & Methods.

- Marcello Capra, Zelia Borsellino, Aurelio Maggio, Maria Concetta Renda, Lorella Pitrolo, Maria Carmela Lo Pinto, Michele Rizzo, Flavia Fiorenza, Calogera Gerardi were responsible for collection of the clinical data and collection of serum samples .
- Stefania Grimaudo, and Antonietta Di Cristina performed genetic tests,

4) Results.

- Fabrizio Bronte and Vincenza Calvaruso were responsible for the statistical analysis, figures and tables

5) Writing the manuscript.

- Vito Di Marco, Massimo Levrero and Antonio Craxi analyzed data and wrote the paper

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