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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: Maria Cuzzola, Pasquale Iacopino, Giuseppe Messina

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

- Maria Cuzzola was responsible for study design, molecular analysis,
- Maurizio Fiasché was responsible for computational analysis
- Pasquale Iacopino, Giuseppe Messina, Massimo Martino, Giuseppe Console, Roberta Fedele and Giuseppe Irrera were responsible for clinical management patients.
- Daniela Massi was responsible for histochemical analysis.

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):

- Maurizio Fiasché was responsible for figure 1, 2 and table 2
- Fortunato Morabito was/were responsible for figure 3 and for supplementary figure 1
- Daniela massi was responsible for figure 4
- Roberta Fedele was responsible for table 1
- Maria Cuzzola was responsible for supplementary table 1

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

- Maria Cuzzola, Maurizio Fiasché, Anna Recchia and Fortunato Morabito were responsible for writing the manuscript

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