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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**: Giuseppe Gaipa, Giovanni Cazzaniga, Michael N. Dworzak, Giuseppe Basso

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

- Giuseppe Gaipa, Giovanni Cazzaniga, Michael N. Dworzak, Giuseppe Basso were responsible for the design of the study
- Maria Grazia Valsecchi and Daniela Silvestri, were responsible for statistical methods
- Barbara Buldini, Richard Ratei, Michael Dworzak, Giuseppe Gaipa. were responsible for flow cytometric analyses
- Alessandra Benetello, Simona Sala, Oscar Maglia, Angela Schumich, Marinella Veltroni, Leonid Karawajew collaborated for flow cytometric analyses
- Giovanni Cazzaniga, Renate Panzer-Grümayer and Andre Schrauder were responsible for RT-PCR analyses
- Tiziana Villa collaborated for RT-PCR analyses
- Wolf-Dieter Ludwig, Valentino Conter, Martin Schrappe, Andrea Biondi revised the manuscript critically

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):

- Giuseppe Gaipa, Giovanni Cazzaniga and Maria Grazia Valsecchi were responsible for Table 1, Table S2, Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure S1
- Giuseppe Gaipa was responsible for Table S1

- Maria Grazia Valsecchi was responsible for Figure 3 and Figure 4
- Michael Dworzak was responsible for Table 2 and Figure S2
- Alessandra Benetello, Simona Sala, Oscar Maglia, Angela Schumich, Marinella Veltroni, Leonid Karawajew were responsible for collection of flow cytometric data
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5) **Writing the manuscript.** The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:

- Giuseppe Gaipa and Giovanni Cazzaniga were responsible for writing the manuscript

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