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Authors: Casonato A, Daidone V, Barbon G, Pontara E, Di Pasquale I, Gallinaro L, Marullo L, Bertorelle G

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:
- Alessandra Casonato, University of Padua Medical School, sandra.casonato@unipd.it
- Viviana Daidone, University of Padua Medical School, viviana, daidone@unipd.it

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- 2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study: Alessandra Casonato and Viviana Daidone
- 3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations (please detail):
- Alessandra Casonato designed the research
- Viviana Daidone and Giovanni Barbon performed genetic experiments
- Elena Pontara performed analysis of patients' and normals' phenotype
- Irene De Pasquale and Lisa Gallinaro collected the blood samples and performed part of genetic 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):
- Viviana Daidone, Giovanni Barbon, Letizia Marullo and Giorgio Bertorelle analyzed the data
- Giovanni Barbon prepeared Table 4 and Figures 1 and 3
- Viviana Daidone prepeared Tables 1, 2, 3 and Figure 2
- 5) Writing the manuscript. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:
- Alessandra Casonato and Viviana Daidone were responsible for writing the manuscript
- 6) Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments: (Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support. Corresponding authors must declare whether they had assistance with the study design, data collection, data analysis, or manuscript preparation. If such assistance was available, the authors must disclose the identity of the individuals who

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