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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:** Antonio Palumbo, Anders Waage, Cyrille Hulin, Meral Beksac, Mario Boccadoro, Pieter Sonneveld

**3) Design & Methods.** The following authors were responsible for specific investigations  
• Antonio Palumbo and Francesca Gay were responsible for the overall design and method organization.  
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**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):  
• Antonio Palumbo and Francesca Gay were responsible for collecting, analyzing and interpreting the data.  
• Antonio Palumbo, Francesca Gay, Ileana Baldi and Giovannino Ciccone were responsible for preparing the related figures and tables  
• Ileana Baldi and Giovannino Ciccone performed the statistical analysis on the data collected

**5) Writing the manuscript.** The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:  
• Antonio Palumbo, Francesca Gay and Giovannino Ciccone were responsible for writing the manuscript  
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