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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:**

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- 2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study:**

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- 3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations.**

- Livio Pagano, Caterina Giovanna Valentini, Alessandro Pulsoni, Fabio Facchetti, Stefano Pileri were responsible for the design of the study
- Stefano Pileri and Fabio Facchetti performed the centralized revision of tissue specimens

- 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):**

- Caterina Giovanna Valentini, Alessandro Pulsoni and Fabio Facchetti collected the data and analyzed the results.
- Simona Fisogni and Fabio Facchetti were responsible for Table 1
- Caterina Giovanna Valentini and Livio Pagano were responsible for Table 2, 3, 4 and Figure 1, 2 and 3
- Paola Carluccio, Francesco Mannelli, Monia Lunghi, Gianmatteo Pica, Francesco Onida, Chiara Cattaneo, Pierpaolo Piccaluga, Eros Di Bona, Elisabetta Todisco, Pellegrino Musto, Antonio Spadea, Alfonso D'Arco participated in the data collection, analysis and interpretation.

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

- Caterina Giovanna Valentini, Fabio Facchetti, Stefano Pileri, Livio Pagano wrote the manuscript
- Sergio Amadori critically reviewed the final version of the paper

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