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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: Sara Bringham, Maria Victoria Mateos, Sonja Zweegman, Mario Boccadoro, Jesus San Miguel, Pieter Sonneveld, Antonio Palumbo

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

- Sara Bringham, Maria Victoria Mateos, Sonja Zweegman, Mario Boccadoro, Jesus San Miguel, Pieter Sonneveld, Antonio Palumbo were responsible for the design of the study
- Andrea Evangelista, Bronno van der Holt, Giovannino Ciccone were responsible for the statistical methodology

4) Results. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables:

- Alessandra Larocca, Antonietta Pia Falcone, Albert Oriol, Davide Rossi, Maide Cavalli, Pierre Wijermans, Roberto Ria, Massimo Offidani, Juan Jose Lahuerta, Anna Marina Liberati, Roberto Mina, Vincenzo Callea, Martijn Schaafsma, Chiara Cerrato, Roberto Marasca, Luca Franceschini, Ana-Isabel Teruel, Vittorio Montefusco provided patients and data for the study
- Sara Bringham and Antonio Palumbo were responsible for the results, their interpretation and all the figures and tables of the paper

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

- Sara Bringham and Antonio Palumbo were responsible for the writing of the manuscript

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