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First author	Luigi Gugliotta

According to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (http://www.icmje.org/ethical_lauthor.html):

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LG takes primary responsibility of this paper. LG, J-JK, GB, MG, CH, CB, BA, and RC made substantial contributions to the conception and design of the study. LG, J-JK, GB, MG, CH, and CB contributed to the acquisition of data. JS participated in the statistical analysis and all authors contributed to analysis and interpretation of data, and revising the article critically for important intellectual content. Although the sponsor was involved in the design, collection, analysis, interpretation, and fact checking of information, the content of this manuscript, the ultimate interpretation, and the decision to submit it for publication in Haematologica was made by the authors independently.