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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION FORM

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*Please describe the contributions of each author, indicating who was responsible for each part of the study and the preparation of the manuscript (collection of data, experiments, data analysis, generation of figures, interpretation of data, preparation of the text, etc.) :*

Dagmar Pospisilova and Monika Horvathova designed the study, collected and analyzed the data, wrote the paper and provided financial support; MH generated the figures. Dusan Holub, Marian Hajduch and Petr Dzubak were responsible for the hepcidin assay setup and measurements. Zuzana Zidova determined GDF15 levels and performed immunohistochemical and PCR analyses. DP, Lucie Sulovska, Jiri Houda, Vladimir Mihal and Ivana Hadacova treated the patients, collected the patients' material and provided and interpret the clinical data; JH also participated in hepcidin measurements. Lenka Radova performed statistical analyses and generated corresponding graphs. Vladimir Divoky

contributed to the interpretation of the results, to the writing of the manuscript and provided financial support. All authors contributed to the editing of the manuscript.