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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.) :

NK participated in designing the study, performed the experiments and statistics, analyzed the data and helped writing the manuscript. DL and EE recruited the patients, provided the samples, and performed laboratory work. MDM helped optimizing the Urea-PAGE method, participated in analysis and helped writing the manuscript. SV performed laboratory work and routine laboratory estimation of serum Tf-Saturation. EK, PE performed hepcidin estimation in serum samples. AM performed hepcidin estimation in serum samples and offered critical suggestions. EA, EK, GS and KS helped recruiting the patients and provided critical suggestions. DG was the principal investigator, designed the study, analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript.