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Information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in the study

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

- Michela Montagna, Marco Montillo and Mario Regazzi were responsible of study design.
- Montagna Michela was responsible of samples analysis and collecting data.
- Alessandra Tedeschi, Francesca Ricci, Enrica Morra and Eleonora Vismara were responsible for clinical information.
- Carmine Tinelli was responsible for statistical analysis.
- Michela montagna, M. Antonia Avanzini and Livia Visai were responsible for ELISA assay.

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):

- Michela Montagna, Marco Montillo and Mario Regazzi were responsible for all the results, included figures and tables.
- Francesca Ricci, Eleonora Vismara and Alessandra Tedeschi were responsible for clinical data.

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

- Michela Montagna, Marco Montillo and Mario Regazzi were responsible for writing the original draft and the final manuscript.
- Maria A. Avanzini, Carmine Tinelli, Alessandra Tedeschi, Livia Visai, Francesca Ricci, Eleonora Vismara and Enrica Morra revised the different versions and approved the final manuscript.

6) **Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:** (We did not receive any external assistance with the study design, data collection, data analysis, or manuscript preparation.)