
Francesco Paolo Caronia, Alfonso Fiorelli, Enrico Ruffini, Maurizio Nicolosi, Mario Santini and Attilio Ignazio Lo Monte

Following concerns raised, and at the request of the editor-in-chief, the authors would like to shed light on the origin and number of patients treated by the first author.

Of the 18 patients reported as having been treated at the Istituto Oncologico del Mediterraneo (IOM), 13 patients had already been included in a previous study [1]. These 13 patients were treated between March 2004 and November 2009 in three different Italian tertiary referral centres [1], where Francesco Paolo Caronia worked as a Consultant. These three centres are: Ismett, Palermo; La Maddalena, Palermo; and Policlinico Morgagni, Catania.

The 5 new patients included in the above article were operated at Policlinico Morgagni between December 2009 and November 2012.

None of the 18 patients were surgically treated or followed up at the IOM because the study reports on patients treated between 2000 and 2012 and the first author, Francesco Paolo Caronia, was employed at IOM from January 2014. The name of the institution was changed while the article was still under review, without this being brought to the attention of the reviewers or editors of this journal. Nevertheless, all 18 patients were treated by the same surgeon (Francesco Paolo Caronia).

Finally, the authors refer to the induction therapy protocol proposed in 2007 by the Southwest Oncology group but this protocol was already in use years before [2].

REFERENCES


† Doi of original article: doi: 10.1093/icvts/ivu115.