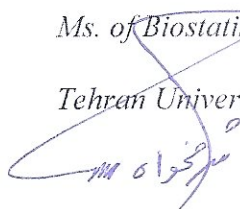


**Biostatistics statement:** The statistical methods of this study were reviewed and confirmed by M. Sharafkhah, Ms. of Biostatistics from digestive diseases research institute.

*Maryam Sharafkhah*

*Ms. of Biostatistics*

*Tehran University of Medical Sciences*

A handwritten signature in Persian script, likely belonging to Maryam Sharafkhah, written in blue ink. The signature is stylized and includes the name 'ماریام شرافخاه' (Maryam Sharafkhah).