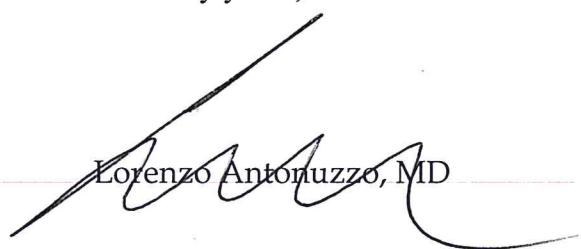


Conflict of interest statement

L. Antonuzzo has received speaking honoraria from Roche, Lilly, Merk-Serono, Sanofi Aventis and Novartis. E. Giommoni has received speaking honoraria from Roche, Celgene, Merk-Serono, Sanofi Aventis and Novartis. T.P. Latiano has received speaking honoraria from Roche, Sanofi Aventis and Amgen. M. Aieta has participated in advisory boards sponsored by Roche and Sanofi Aventis. A. Bertolini has received speaking honoraria from Pfizer and has participated in advisory boards sponsored by Hospira. D.C. Corsi has received speaking honoraria from Roche and has participated in advisory boards sponsored by Merck Serono and Sanofi. S. Mogavero has provided medical writing assistance funded by Roche. V. Angelini is a Roche full time employee. M. Pazzagli has received research funding from Roche. F. Di Costanzo has served as a consultant and has participated in advisory boards sponsored by Roche, Lilly, Celgene, Merk-Serono, Sanofi Aventis and Novartis. All remaining authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lorenzo Antonuzzo', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

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