

## **BIOSTATISTICS STATEMENT**

I confirm that statistics measurements were: mean and standard deviation, mean standard error and 95% confidence intervals, median and range, when appropriate. At a later stage, univariate analysis and one-way ANOVA aimed to verify the relationship between each independent variable and the dependent variable (SVR12) were conducted. Chi-square test for categorical variables and t-Test or Mann-Whitney test (when appropriate) for quantitative variables was used. A two-tailed p value  $<0.05$  was considered to indicate statistical significance. Then we looked for multicollinearity between those independent variables that resulted statistically associated with SVR12. Finally, multivariable logistic-regression analysis (step-wise selection procedure) was conducted to assess the relationship between the SVR and the pre-specified demographic and baseline clinical characteristics. All statistical analyses were performed with software package SPSS for Windows (Rel SPSS 15.0; SPSS Chicago, IL, USA

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