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None of the authors have any conflict of interest to declare.

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The protocol for the research project has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and the Ethics Committee of the National Gastroenterology Institute, as well as the National Regulatory Authority and it also conforms to the Declaration of Helsinki in 1995 (as revised in 2008). All individuals included in this study gave written informed consent and patient anonymity has been preserved.

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