

### **Biostatistics review certificate**

Statistics was performed in the following method: The frequency of zinc deficiency was tabulated according to patients' characteristics. Logistic regression was used to assess the association between patients' characteristics and the presence of zinc deficiency. Factors showing statistical significance at univariable analysis were subsequently included in a multivariable model. Analyses were performed using the SAS software (version 9.4, Cary, NC). All tests were two-sided and P-values  $<0.05$  were considered statistically significant.

Statistics was performed by co-author **Patrick Maisonneuve**, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy, ORCID 0000-0002-5309-4704, well known and experienced biostatistician.