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**Biostatistics statement**

Authors of the manuscript have a long-standing research experience with sufficient training and skills in Biostatistics, which is necessary for the high-quality analysis in this work.

GraphPad Prism Version 7.0 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, California, USA) was used for statistical analysis. Two-sided p value  $\leq 0.05$  was considered as significant. Based on the data distribution, we used nonparametric tests (Spearman correlation, Mann-Whitney test, Kruskal-Wallis test, Post-hoc Dunn's test). Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test and Fisher's exact test were used for testing independence of variables. Additionally, for differences in standard laboratory parameters unpaired t-test was performed. Some data are presented as boxplots with whiskers for minimum and maximum. Prognosis was analyzed using Kaplan-Meier survival curves and comparison was performed using nonparametric log-rank test.

Sincerely yours,  
PD Dr. Alexander Link