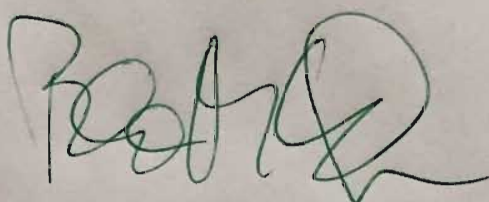


For statistical analyses we used the SPSS 16.0 software package (SPSS, Chicago, Ill., USA). Mean values and standard error of the mean are given unless otherwise indicated for continuous variables. Discrete data are presented as counts and percentages. To compare the two study groups we used a dependent sample student's T-test. A two-tailed P value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Statistics was performed by GE, a biomedical statistician.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to be 'P. H. Q.', is centered on the page below the text.