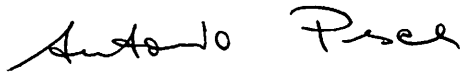


## Conflict-of-interest statement

Dear Editor,

**All the authors declare that they have no competing interests.**

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Pesce'.

Antonio Pesce, MD

Dept. of Medical and Surgical Sciences and Advanced Technologies "G.F. Ingrassia"  
University of Catania

Via Santa Sofia 84

95123-Catania (Italy)

Fax: +390953785912

E-mail: nino.fish@hotmail.it