

### ***Biostatistics statement***

For continuous variables, data distribution was first evaluated for normality using the Shapiro-Wilk test. As all the variables did not pass normality test, data were analyzed using Mann-Whitney's U tests and presented as medians (P25–P75). Descriptive variables were analyzed using  $\chi^2$  analyses or Fisher's exact tests, as appropriate, and  $P < 0.05$  were considered statistically significant. Statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS 21.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA).