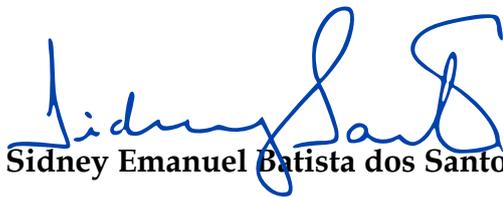


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**Biostatistics statement:**

I, Dr. Sidney Santos, hereby state that I have reviewed the biostatistics of the manuscript number 36229 submitted to the World Journal of Gastroenterology. I am a specialist in Mathematics, PhD in Genetics and a Full Professor of the Universidade Federal do Pará.



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