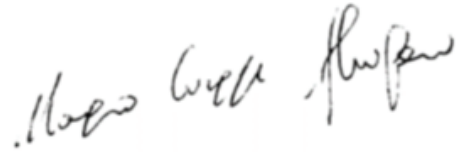


Informed consent statement

Patients were not required to give informed consent for the study because the analysis used anonymous data that were obtained from a database. Each patient, however, signed a written informed consent form at hospital admission, agreeing to the use of his/her data in anonymous form for any aim of medical research.

Trapani, July 4th, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. G. G. G.", is written on a light blue background.