

Biostatistics statement

The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Masashi Yoneda from the Department of Internal Medicine, Aichi Medical University, Japan. Statistical methods in this study are adequately and appropriately which could verify the results.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Masashi Yoneda'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Masashi' and the last name 'Yoneda' clearly distinguishable.

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