The responsible author(s) of this manuscript confirm(s) that all persons designated as authors qualify for authorship, and that each author has participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

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**Simone Ringhoffer:** Isolated the patient samples, did the PCR and the FACS analysis, interpreted data and drafted the manuscript.

**Markus Rojewski:** Supervised the FACS analysis and drafted the manuscript.

**Hartmut Döhner:** Contributed to the conception of the study and revised the manuscript.

**Donald Bunjes:** Contributed to the conception and design of the study, interpreted data and drafted the manuscript.

**Mark Ringhoffer:** Designed the study, collected and interpreted data, generated the figures and drafted the manuscript.

All authors approved the final version of the paper.