Milan, 2\textsuperscript{nd} May 2011

Dear Mrs Pafitis,

In Italy the law number 196 of the year 2003 is devoted to take care of the confidentially data of all population and of clinical data of the patients (according to this law the Lombardy Region published in 2006 “Regolamento Regionale n.9). This law allows studies in which there are not patients’ data (name, surname, identification codes, ward of recovery etc…). Our study was developed according to this law so we did not ask any permission. We asked data to the three hospitals, data we received are not confidential.

Best Regards
Silvana Castaldi