

**Supplementary Table 1. The clinical and demographic characteristics of the first cohort**

	<b>Control group</b>	<b>T2DM group</b>	<b>P value</b>
	<b>(n=6)</b>	<b>(n=6)</b>	
Male gender	3 (50%)	3 (50%)	1
Age(years)	60±2.3	62.3±6.2	0.42
Hypertension	1 (16.7%)	2 (33.3%)	1
Smoker	1 (16.7%)	1 (16.7%)	1
BMI(kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.3±2.1	24.7±1.2	0.178
TC(mmol/L)	3.5±0.9	3.9±1.1	0.506
TG(mmol/L)	0.9±0.2	1.4±0.6	0.073
HDL(mmol/L)	1.3±0.3	1.1±0.2	0.202
LDL(mmol/L)	1.8±0.7	2.1±0.9	0.559
ALT(U/L)	36.3±17.8	33.7±17.9	0.801
AST(U/L)	23.5±3.8	19.8±7.3	0.299
Scr(μmol/L)	58.7±3.9	60.0±10.7	0.781
FT4I(pmol/L)	14.4±2.7	14.1±1.9	0.801
HbA1c (%)	5.4±0.1	6.9±0.7	0.003
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	35.0±1.9	52.2±7.8	0.002
GLU(mmol/L)	5.0±0.4	9.8±2.0	<0.001
OGTT 2h(mmol/L)	7.0±0.4	13.8±1.3	<0.001

**Supplementary Table 2. The clinical and demographic characteristics of the second cohort**

	<b>Control group</b>	<b>Pre-diabetes group</b>	<b>T2DM group</b>	<b>P value</b>
	<b>(n=20)</b>	<b>(n=20)</b>	<b>(n=20)</b>	
Male gender	8(40.0%)	11(55.0%)	12(60.0%)	0.42
Age(years)	49.6±4.7	47.2±5.9	51.1±5.5	0.083
Hypertension	5(25.0%)	6 (30.0%)	8 (40.0%)	0.583
Smoker	3(15.0%)	5(25.0%)	5(25.0%)	0.675
BMI(kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.6±2.1	22.8±2.2	23.7±2.0	0.343

TC(mmol/L)	3.7±0.8	3.9±1.0	4.2±0.9	0.196
TG(mmol/L)	1.5±0.4	1.6±0.5	1.7±0.7	0.342
HDL(mmol/L)	1.3±0.5	1.1±0.2	1.1±0.3	0.501
LDL(mmol/L)	2.5±0.6	2.8±0.6	2.8±0.6	0.083
ALT(U/L)	24.8±6.6	24.1±2.9	27.7±7.6	0.415
AST(U/L)	24.9±5.6	26.1±4.4	23.2±4.5	0.169
Scr(μmol/L)	59.2±6.5	58.3±8.0	61.2±4.9	0.387
FT4I(pmol/L)	14.3±1.6	15.2±2.4	13.9±1.9	0.111
HbA1c (%)	5.0±0.2	6.0±0.2	7.5±0.7	<0.001
HbA1c(mmol/mol)	31.2±2.6	42.1±2.2	58.2±7.1	<0.001
GLU(mmol/L)	5.0±0.4	6.5±0.2	7.9±0.6	<0.001
OGTT 2h(mmol/L)	6.8±0.5	8.9±1.4	12.9±1.0	<0.001

**Supplementary Table 3. The clinical and demographic characteristics of the third cohort**

	<b>Control group</b>	<b>Pre-diabetes group</b>	<b>T2DM group</b>	<b>P value</b>
	(n=60)	(n=63)	(n=64)	
Male gender	29(48.3%)	32(50.8%)	35(54.7%)	0.774
Age(years)	49.0±5.5	49.0±6.6	50.6±5.7	0.222
Hypertension	21(35.0%)	25(39.7%)	31 (48.4%)	0.302
Smoker	12(20.0%)	13(20.6%)	18(28.1%)	0.484
BMI(kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.5±3.8	25.0±3.1	23.9±3.8	0.192
TC(mmol/L)	3.6±0.7	4.1±0.8	4.3±0.5	<0.001
TG(mmol/L)	1.4±0.4	1.6±0.3	1.5±0.4	0.038
HDL(mmol/L)	1.0±0.2	1.1±0.3	1.0±0.2	0.362
LDL(mmol/L)	2.5±0.8	2.6±0.6	2.5±0.4	0.553
ALT(U/L)	25.5±8.4	26.5±4.8	26.3±5.9	0.648
AST(U/L)	23.2±5.6	24.8±3.1	24.5±4.6	0.156
Scr(μmol/L)	58.0±8.1	59.8±6.1	59.6±6.0	0.27
FT4I(pmol/L)	14.4±1.6	15.0±2.5	14.9±2.2	0.212

HbA1c (%)	$5.0 \pm 0.4$	$5.9 \pm 0.3$	$7.5 \pm 0.6$	<0.001
HbA1c(mmol/mol)	$31.6 \pm 4.5$	$40.6 \pm 2.9$	$57.8 \pm 5.9$	<0.001
GLU(mmol/L)	$4.8 \pm 0.5$	$6.2 \pm 0.3$	$8.2 \pm 1.0$	<0.001
OGTT 2h(mmol/L)	$6.6 \pm 0.4$	$8.6 \pm 0.9$	$14.4 \pm 1.8$	<0.001

BMI: body mass index; TC: total cholesterol; TG: triglyceride; HDL: high density lipoprotein; LDL: low density lipoprotein; ALT: alanine transaminase; AST: aspartate transaminase; Scr: serum creatinine, FT4I: free thyroxine index; GLU: glucose; OGTT: oral glucose tolerance test