

eTable 1: Hormone correlations in the entire group and within each sex

| | | All subjects | Women | Men |
|------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| N | | 163 | 91 | 72 |
| Leptin | a-FABP | 0.63 (<0.001) | 0.66 (<0.001) | 0.42 (0.0002) |
| | 25(OH)VitD | 0.03 (0.73) | -0.03 (0.79) | -0.19 (0.10) |
| | Testosterone | -0.42 (<0.001) | 0.24 (0.02) | -0.21 (0.08) |
| a-FABP | 25(OH)VitD | -0.01 (0.91) | 0.01 (0.93) | -0.20 (0.08) |
| | Testosterone | -0.21 (0.008) | 0.07 (0.49) | -0.19 (0.11) |
| 25(OH)VitD | Testosterone | -0.13 (0.10) | 0.12 (0.27) | 0.03 (0.82) |

Legend: Pearson's correlation coefficient (p-value) are presented for each pair of variables

In 135 individuals with body mass index (BMI, kg/m²) available, BMI was correlated with both leptin (r=0.56, p<0.0001) and a-FABP (r=0.51, p<0.0001).

25(OH)VitD: 25-hydroxy-vitamin D; a-FABP: adipocyte-fatty acid binding protein.

eTable 2: Cross-sectional and longitudinal associations between adiposity markers and MS disability (EDSS), adjusted for age, BMI and disease characteristics.

| | UNIVARIATE ASSOCIATIONS | | | MULTIVARIATE ASSOCIATIONS | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | All subjects | Women | Men | All subjects | Women | Men |
| Cross-sectional EDSS (N=135) – Odds ratio greater than 1 indicates worse function | | | | | | |
| Adiposity Markers | | | | | | |
| Leptin | 1.15 (0.28) | 1.25 (0.30) | 2.51 (0.067) | - | - | - |
| a-FABP | 1.24 (0.046) | 1.28 (0.065) | 1.27 (0.34) | 1.22 (0.078) | 1.32 (0.042) | 1.13 (0.64) |
| Additional markers | | | | | | |
| 25(OH)VitD | 0.64 (0.006) | 0.60 (0.017) | 0.71 (0.18) | 0.62 (0.003) | 0.57 (0.010) | 0.69 (0.17) |
| Testosterone | 0.99 (0.22) | 0.92 (0.47) | 0.95 (0.006) | 0.99 (0.26) | 0.99 (0.92) | 0.94 (0.005) |
| Longitudinal EDSS (N=135) – a positive value indicates worsening function | | | | | | |
| Adiposity Markers | | | | | | |
| Leptin | -0.00002 (0.99) | -0.0023 (0.41) | -0.0057 (0.47) | | | |
| a-FABP | 0.0024 (0.13) | -0.00004 (0.98) | 0.0091 (0.011) | 0.0025 (0.13) | -0.00009 (0.96) | 0.0078 (0.023) |
| Additional markers | | | | | | |
| 25(OH)VitD | -0.0015 (0.53) | 0.0013 (0.61) | -0.012 (0.008) | -0.0013 (0.60) | 0.00052 (0.85) | -0.011 (0.017) |
| Testosterone | 0.00005 (0.97) | 0.0040 (0.14) | 0.00021 (0.50) | 0.00004 (0.77) | 0.0039 (0.16) | 0.0004 (0.17) |

Legend:

Cross-sectional analyses: Odds ratio for a ten-unit increase in each of the hormonal markers (p-value). Adjusted for BMI, age, disease duration and type.

Longitudinal analyses: Estimate and p-value of the association between hormonal markers and change in EDSS over time are provided. Adjusted for age, disease duration and type.

BMI: body mass index. EDSS: Expanded Disability Status Scale. 25(OH)VitD: 25-hydroxy-vitamin D; a-FABP: adipocyte-fatty acid binding protein.