Supplemental Methods

Biochemical determinations

Blood was drawn from 12-hour fasting subjects who had been in a supine resting position for at least 30 min. Laboratory evaluation included serum ALT and AST, gamma glutamyl transferase (γGT), alkaline phosphatase (AP), glucose and insulin, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL) and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, and plasma triglycerides (TG). All biochemical determinations were measured using a Hitachi-912 Autoanalyzer (Roche, Diagnostic, Buenos Aires, Argentina) or Immulite 1000 (DPC, Buenos Aires, Argentina). Homeostasis Model Assessment (HOMA-IR) was used to evaluate an insulin resistance index and was calculated as follows: Fasting serum insulin (μU/ml) × Fasting plasma glucose (mmol/l) / 22.5. Anthropometric measurements and blood samples were obtained from each patient at the time of liver biopsy and before any intervention.

Genetic analysis

Genotyping of rs72613567 was performed using a custom TaqMan genotyping assay (Applied Biosystems, California 92008, USA). The concordance of taqman-based genotype assignments between duplicate samples was 100%. Sequence of the variant used to design the assay:

rs72613567
CCATCATTTACTTATAAAATTAAAATTTTAGAAAATAAAAATAATATTTTCCTCTTTTTAATCANAG
ATTATGGCCTGTNTTGGAGANAGNTGAAGTCGTAAGAAGTCTGATAGATGGAATACTTANCAANA
AGAAAATGATTTTTNTTNCATCGTATATCAATATCTTTCTGAGACTACAGAAGT[*/T]AAGTACAGC
ACAGAACACCCAAATACTAAAACACCAATAGAGCTTTTTTTTTTTNCTTTTTTTTTTTTTTAGNCAGAG
TCTCACTCTGTCACCCTGGCTGGATTGNGGTGGTTGCA 1=INST

Genotyping was confirmed by Sanger Sequencing in 92 samples.

Fasta sequence:
>gnl|dbSNP|rs72613567|allelePos=501|totalLen=1001|taxid=9606|snpclass=2|alleles='-/A/G'|mol=Genomic|build=151
GGTAGAGAAAATGAATCACTCTCTTTTTATAGACTGGGTAGGAAAATAACAGAGGAAATAACTGT
TCTCCCCAGGGATGGAGAGTTTCCATGCCAATTTTCACAACTGAAAGATGCTCCATAATAATAGCT
CTATTGGGCCAGGCATGGTGGCTCATGACTGTAATCCCAGCACTTTGGGAGGCCGAGACAGGAGG
ATAACTTGAGGTCAGGAGTTCGAGTCCAGCCTGGCCAACATGGGGAAACCTGTCTCTATCAAAAA
ATACAAAAATTAGCTGGGTGTAGTGTGGCAGCACACACCTATAATCCCAGTTACTTGGGGGTCTGA
GGCATGAGAATTGCTTGAACCCAGGAGGCGGAGGTTGCAGTGAGCCAAGATCATGCCACTGCAAC
CACCGCAATCCAGCCAGGGTGACAGAGTGAGACTCTGTCTAAAAAAAAAAAAAGCAAAAAAAAA
AGCTCTATTGGTGTTTTAGTATTTGGGTGTTCTGTGCTGTACTT**A**ACTTCTGTAGTCTCAGAAAGAT
ATTGATATACGATGGAACAAAAATCATTTTCTTATTGGTAAGTATTCCATCTATCAGACTTCTTACG
ACTTCATCTGTCTCCAATACAGGCCATAATCTGTGATTAAAAAGAGGAAAATATTATTTTTATTTTC
TAAAATTTTAATTTTATAAGTAAATGATGGCAGGAAAATTATCCTATATTTTTACTAAATTTAGAAT
GAAGATTTAAAATATTCCAGGATTTGCTGCATTAATGCCACCCTACCCACTTCCTCCACATCCCATG
TTGATGTTTTGTTATCAGAAACTTATACTTTCATATCCAGTAGGTGTGTTTCATAGCTCACTTAGTC
AAAATATCAAAATGGTGGCGAGGCATTAGATGGTAAGGAGTAGTGGAGCCAGACAAGAAAGAGG
AATGGCTAGGATTAATCATGGGACAGGAAGGAAACATCTGACATCTCAAAGCCTGTTGGATGCAA
GGAGAAAATTCTAT

The following primers (sequence 5'->3') were used for Sanger sequencing: forward primer TCACAACTGAAAGATGCTCCA; reverse primer GAAGTGGGTAGGGTGGCATT. Product length was 677 bp.