

Table S1. Baseline characteristics of obese patients (BMI > 30 Kg/m²) with or without NAFLD.

Characteristics	Overall (n=60)	NL (n=14)	NAFLD (n=46)
Age	49.2 (24-69)	48.4 (24-63)	49.4 (26-69)
Male gender	21 (35 %)	4 (28.6 %)	17 (37 %)
BMI (kg/m ²)	43.7 (33.4-53.1)	43.2 (36.5-53)	43.9 (33.4-53.1)
TG (mg/dl)	146.1 (57-340)	107.4 (57-211)	158.4 (63-340)**
CHO (mg/dl)	161 (79-250)	152.4 (115-226)	163.7 (79-250)
CHO-HDL (mg/dl)	36 (20-53)	35.8 (25-46)	36.1 (20-53)
Glucose (mg/dl)	94 (66-203)	82.6 (68-140)	97.6 (66-203)
Insulin (μIU/ml)	14 (2-54.2)	9.8 (4.1-15.6)	15.3 (2-54.2)*
HOMA-IR	3.3 (0.5-13.7)	2.1 (0.7-5.4)	3.7 (0.5-13.7)*
ALT (IU/l)	36.8 (13-106)	26.8 (13-95)	40 (13-106)*
AST (IU/l)	29.2 (11-116)	22.4 (11-50)	31.4 (14-116)
Alkaline Phosphatase (IU/l)	65.6 (13-120)	57.1 (29-84)	68.3 (13-120)
Esteatosis			
Grade 0	14 (23.1 %)	14 (100 %)	
Grade 1	28 (35.9 %)		28 (60.9 %)
Grade 2	12 (15.4 %)		12 (26.1 %)
Grade 3	6 (7.7 %)		6 (13%)

Liver samples from obese NL (normal liver) (n=14) and NAFLD (non-alcoholic fatty liver disease) (n=46) patients were obtained by liver biopsy. Data are shown as mean (range) or n (%). Significant differences between NAFLD and NL are determined by *p <0.05, **p <0.01 and ***p <0.001 (Student's two tailed t-test). BMI, body mass index. TG, Triglyceride; CHO, Cholesterol; HDL, high density lipoprotein; HOMA-IR, homeostatic model assessment-insulin resistance; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase.