

**Supplementary Table 5.** Clinical characteristics of patients with different urea levels in the MRS cohort

Characteristic	All	Low urea level	Moderate or high urea level	P-value
Total	917	88	829	
Age (years)	48.1±10.5	43.4±10.4	48.6±10.4	<0.001
Male sex	388 (42.3)	17 (19.3)	371 (44.8)	<0.001
NAFLD	262 (28.6)	25 (28.4)	237 (28.6)	0.972
Type 2 diabetes mellitus	52 (5.7)	3 (3.4)	49 (5.9)	0.334
Hypertension	141 (15.4)	6 (6.8)	135 (16.3)	0.019
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	22 (20–25)	22 (20–24)	22 (21–25)	0.071
ALT (IU/L)	21 (16–31)	20 (14–26)	22 (17–31)	0.002
Albumin (g/L)	45.2±2.6	44.9±2.8	45.2±2.6	0.306
Total bilirubin (μmol/L)	12 (10–16)	11 (9–15)	12 (10–16)	0.241
ALP (IU/L)	62 (51–74)	57 (49–70)	63.0 (52–74)	0.044
WCC (×10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	6.0±1.5	6.2±1.6	6.0±1.6	0.240
Platelet (×10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	239 (208–275)	239 (215–289)	239 (208–273)	0.297
Triglycerides (mmol/L)	1.1 (0.8–1.6)	1.0 (0.7–1.4)	1.1 (0.8–1.6)	0.162
Cholesterol (mmol/L)	5.2±1.0	4.8±0.9	5.2±1.0	<0.001
FBS (mmol/L)	5.1±0.9	4.9±1.2	5.2±0.9	0.027
Haemoglobin A1c (%)	5.4±0.6	5.3±0.8	5.5±0.6	0.066
Creatinine (μmol/L)	75±15	65.2±11.0	76.3±15.3	<0.001
Urea (mmol/L)	4.9 (4.2–5.7)	3.3 (3.1–3.4)	5.0 (4.4–5.8)	<0.001

Values are presented as mean±standard deviation, median (interquartile range), or number (%).

MRS, magnetic resonance spectroscopy; NAFLD, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; ALP, alkaline phosphatase; WCC, white cell count; FBS, fasting blood sugar level.