

**ESM Table 1. Mean difference in arteriolar and venular diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) associated with CVD risk factors**

| Risk marker                                 | Absolute difference in arteriolar diameter (95%CI) in $\mu\text{m}$ |           |                      |           | Absolute difference in venular diameter (95%CI) in $\mu\text{m}$ |           |                      |           |
|---|---|-----------|----------------------|-----------|--|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
|   | Model 1   |           | Model 2              |           | Model 1  |           | Model 2              |           |
|   |   | pvalue    |                      | pvalue    |  | pvalue    |                      | pvalue    |
| Age per decade                              | -0.57 (-0.65, -0.49)  | <1.0E-300 | -0.52 (-0.60, -0.44) | 9.0E-36   | 0.97 (0.84, 1.11)  | <1.0E-300 | 1.00 (0.86, 1.14)    | <1.0E-300 |
| Sex (female)                                | -0.21 (-0.34, -0.08)  | 0.002     | -0.22 (-0.35, -0.08) | 0.001     | -0.73 (-0.96, -0.51)   | 1.3E-10   | -0.55 (-0.77, -0.32) | 2.0E-06   |
| Systolic BP per 10mmHg                      | -0.91 (-0.95, -0.88)  | <1.0E-300 | -0.91 (-0.95, -0.87) | <1.0E-300 | -0.25 (-0.31, -0.18)   | 1.7E-13   | -0.31 (-0.37, -0.24) | 3.2E-19   |
| Diastolic BP per 10mmHg                     | -1.63 (-1.69, -1.56)  | <1.0E-300 | -1.67 (-1.73, -1.60) | <1.0E-300 | -0.28 (-0.39, -0.17)   | 1.2E-06   | -0.45 (-0.57, -0.33) | 5.0E-14   |
| Mean arterial pressure per 10 mmHg          | -1.50 (-1.56, -1.44)  | <1.0E-300 | -1.52 (-1.58, -1.47) | <1.0E-300 | -0.33 (-0.42, -0.23)   | 9.1E-11   | -0.46 (-0.56, -0.36) | 7.6E-19   |
| BMI per 5 kg/m <sup>2</sup>                 | -0.31 (-0.38, -0.24)  | 5.1E-18   | -0.30 (-0.37, -0.23) | 4.0E-17   | 0.59 (0.47, 0.71)  | 5.8E-22   | 0.60 (0.48, 0.72)    | 1.1E-22   |
| Total fat mass index kg/m <sup>2</sup>      | 0.03 (-0.07, 0.13)  | 0.595     | 0.03 (-0.07, 0.13)   | 0.518     | 0.74 (0.57, 0.91)  | 4.6E-17   | 0.75 (0.58, 0.92)    | 1.5E-17   |
| Total fat free mass index kg/m <sup>2</sup> | -0.56 (-0.69, -0.43)  | 2.1E-16   | -0.56 (-0.69, -0.42) | 3.1E-16   | -0.16 (-0.38, 0.07)  | 0.183     | -0.15 (-0.38, 0.08)  | 0.198     |
| HbA <sub>1c</sub> per 5 mmol/mol            | 0.14 (0.08, 0.19)   | 1.2E-06   | 0.17 (0.12, 0.23)    | 2.3E-09   | 0.29 (0.19, 0.38)  | 1.7E-09   | 0.14 (0.05, 0.24)    | 0.003     |
| Total cholesterol (mmol/L)                  | -0.24 (-0.29, -0.18)  | 3.6E-15   | -0.25 (-0.30, -0.19) | 2.7E-16   | 0.02 (-0.08, 0.12)   | 0.734     | 0.03 (-0.07, 0.13)   | 0.555     |
| HDL cholesterol (mmol/L)                    | -0.85 (-1.04, -0.66)  | 1.2E-18   | -1.22 (-1.42, -1.01) | 3.3E-32   | -1.76 (-2.09, -1.44)   | 1.3E-26   | -1.22 (-1.56, -0.87) | 5.7E-12   |
| LDL cholesterol (mmol/L)                    | -0.19 (-0.26, -0.11)  | 1.4E-06   | -0.18 (-0.26, -0.10) | 3.4E-06   | 0.16 (0.03, 0.29)  | 0.016     | 0.13 (0.00, 0.26)    | 0.053     |
| Triacylglycerol (mmol/L)                    | -0.11 (-0.18, -0.04)  | 0.001     | -0.07 (-0.14, 0.00)  | 0.061     | 0.49 (0.37, 0.61)  | 7.7E-16   | 0.29 (0.16, 0.41)    | 5.2E-06   |
| CRP ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ )                   | 0.04 (-0.03, 0.10)  | 0.259     | 0.15 (0.08, 0.22)    | 1.5E-05   | 0.91 (0.80, 1.01)  | <1.0E-300 | 0.76 (0.64, 0.88)    | 1.1E-35   |
| White cell count ( $10^9$ cells/L)          | 0.05 (0.02, 0.08)   | 0.003     | 0.03 (0.00, 0.07)    | 0.052     | 0.42 (0.37, 0.48)  | <1.0E-300 | 0.32 (0.26, 0.38)    | 5.0E-28   |
| Granulocytes ( $10^9$ cells/L)              | 0.24 (0.10, 0.37)   | 0.001     | 0.16 (0.02, 0.31)    | 0.027     | 1.84 (1.61, 2.08)  | <1.0E-300 | 1.42 (1.18, 1.67)    | 5.5E-30   |

Absolute difference in retinal vessel diameter are from a multilevel model allowing for repeated images from the same person (random effect for person). Confidence interval (CI). Model 1 adjusting each factor for age, sex, ethnicity and UKBB centre as fixed effects (n=50,233). Model 2 adjusting each factor for model 1 plus body mass index, smoking and the Townsend deprivation index, as fixed effects (n=50,233). \*HbA<sub>1c</sub> model 1 n=46,122 and model 2 n=46,122.

**ESM Table 2. Percentage differences in arteriolar and venular tortuosity associated with CVD risk factors**

| Risk marker                                 | Percentage difference in arteriolar tortuosity (95%CI) |         |                      |         | Percentage difference in venular tortuosity (95%CI) |           |                      |           |
|---|--|---------|----------------------|---------|---|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
|   | Model 1  |         | Model 2              |         | Model 1   |           | Model 2              |           |
|   |  | pvalue  |                      | pvalue  |   | pvalue    |                      | pvalue    |
| Age per decade                              | 2.35 (1.81, 2.90)                                      | 1.2E-17 | 2.42 (1.87, 2.98)    | 4.0E-18 | 2.47 (2.15, 2.80)                                   | <1.0E-300 | 2.44 (2.11, 2.77)    | <1.0E-300 |
| Sex (female)                                | 4.09 (3.19, 4.99)                                      | 1.4E-19 | 4.26 (3.35, 5.18)    | 9.0E-21 | 1.22 (0.69, 1.74)                                   | 5.4E-06   | 1.68 (1.15, 2.21)    | 4.8E-10   |
| Systolic BP per 10mmHg                      | 1.21 (0.96, 1.47)                                      | 2.0E-20 | 1.25 (0.99, 1.51)    | 7.2E-21 | 0.61 (0.45, 0.76)                                   | 1.2E-14   | 0.39 (0.24, 0.55)    | 7.7E-07   |
| Diastolic BP per 10mmHg                     | 0.80 (0.36, 1.24)                                      | 3.6E-04 | 0.83 (0.37, 1.29)    | 3.8E-04 | 0.25 (-0.01, 0.52)                                  | 5.9E-02   | -0.38 (-0.65, -0.11) | 0.006     |
| Mean arterial pressure per 10 mmHg          | 1.31 (0.92, 1.69)                                      | 2.5E-11 | 1.37 (0.97, 1.77)    | 1.2E-11 | 0.58 (0.35, 0.81)                                   | 8.3E-07   | 0.11 (-0.13, 0.34)   | 0.367     |
| BMI per 5 kg/m <sup>2</sup>                 | 0.20 (-0.26, 0.67)                                     | 0.400   | 0.21 (-0.26, 0.68)   | 0.384   | 2.46 (2.17, 2.74)                                   | <1.0E-300 | 2.42 (2.13, 2.70)    | <1.0E-300 |
| Total fat mass index kg/m <sup>2</sup>      | 0.17 (-0.50, 0.84)                                     | 0.620   | 0.17 (-0.49, 0.85)   | 0.610   | 2.00 (1.59, 2.41)                                   | 3.1E-22   | 1.96 (1.55, 2.37)    | 2.3E-21   |
| Total fat free mass index kg/m <sup>2</sup> | 0.11 (-0.77, 1.00)                                     | 0.801   | 0.12 (-0.77, 1.01)   | 0.797   | 0.94 (0.40, 1.47)                                   | 5.6E-04   | 0.93 (0.40, 1.47)    | 6.3E-04   |
| HbA <sub>1c</sub> per 5 mmol/mol*           | 0.60 (0.24, 0.97)                                      | 0.001   | 0.55 (0.17, 0.92)    | 0.004   | 1.12 (0.90, 1.34)                                   | 8.7E-24   | 0.70 (0.48, 0.93)    | 8.2E-10   |
| Total cholesterol (mmol/L)                  | 0.16 (-0.23, 0.55)                                     | 0.435   | 0.16 (-0.23, 0.55)   | 0.432   | -0.51 (-0.74, -0.28)                                | 1.8E-05   | -0.44 (-0.67, -0.20) | 2.5E-04   |
| HDL cholesterol (mmol/L)                    | 0.48 (-0.77, 1.75)                                     | 0.451   | 0.83 (-0.52, 2.19)   | 0.230   | -2.13 (-2.86, -1.39)                                | 2.1E-08   | 0.21 (-0.59, 1.02)   | 0.601     |
| LDL cholesterol (mmol/L)                    | -0.02 (-0.52, 0.49)                                    | 0.939   | -0.03 (-0.54, 0.48)  | 0.900   | -0.48 (-0.78, -0.17)                                | 0.002     | -0.56 (-0.86, -0.26) | 3.0E-04   |
| Triacylglycerol (mmol/L)                    | 0.86 (0.39, 1.33)                                      | 2.9E-04 | 0.81 (0.33, 1.30)    | 0.001   | 0.22 (-0.05, 0.50)                                  | 0.113     | -0.50 (-0.79, -0.22) | 6.0E-04   |
| CRP (µmol/L)                                | 0.44 (0.03, 0.86)                                      | 0.036   | 0.39 (-0.07, 0.86)   | 0.097   | 1.42 (1.17, 1.67)                                   | 4.4E-29   | 0.51 (0.23, 0.79)    | 3.2E-04   |
| White cell count (10 <sup>9</sup> cells/L)  | -0.30 (-0.52, -0.09)                                   | 0.005   | -0.41 (-0.63, -0.20) | 2.2E-04 | 0.33 (0.20, 0.46)                                   | 5.7E-07   | 0.10 (-0.04, 0.23)   | 0.151     |
| Granulocytes (10 <sup>9</sup> cells/L)      | -1.33 (-2.23, -0.41)                                   | 0.005   | -1.76 (-2.69, -0.82) | 2.6E-04 | 1.80 (1.23, 2.36)                                   | 2.8E-10   | 0.91 (0.34, 1.49)    | 0.002     |

Percentage difference in retinal vessel tortuosity are from a multilevel model allowing for repeated images from the same person (random effect for person). Confidence interval (CI). Model 1 adjusting each factor for age, sex, ethnicity and UKBB centre as fixed effects (n= 50,233). Model 2 adjusting each factor for model 1 plus body mass index, smoking and the Townsend deprivation index, as fixed effects (n=43,888). \*HbA<sub>1c</sub> model 1 n=46,122 and model 2 n=46,122.