

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients with biopsy-proven NAFLD stratified by serum ALT levels.

	nALT group	abnALT group	P
N	n = 75	n = 142	
Clinical parameters			
Male, <i>n</i> (%)	47 (62.67%)	124 (87.32%)	<0.001
Age, years	46.9 ± 12.65	37.31 ± 12.35	<0.001
WBC, ×10 ⁹ /L	5.81 ± 1.21	6.48 ± 1.43	0.001
RBC, ×10 ¹² /L	4.77 ± 0.45	5.13 ± 0.49	<0.001
PLT, ×10 ⁹ /L	249.97 ± 53.87	244.28 ± 61.46	0.500
SBP, mmHg	122.97 ± 17.20	126.70 ± 14.43	0.092
DBP, mmHg	77.00 ± 11.15	80.11 ± 10.27	0.041
Albumin, g/L	45.58 ± 3.92	47.65 ± 3.19	<0.001
ALT, U/L	27.04 ± 7.78	103.10 ± 62.23	<0.001
AST, U/L	25.25 ± 6.10	59.49 ± 35.25	<0.001
ALP, U/L	85.67 ± 50.96	90.52 ± 36.35	0.419
GGT, U/L	42.97 ± 33.54	84.17 ± 113.19	0.002
FPG, mmol/L	5.81 ± 1.53	5.27 ± 0.96	0.002
BUN, mmol/L	4.78 ± 1.40	4.67 ± 1.20	0.532
Creatinine, μmol/L	65.16 ± 15.80	70.64 ± 14.49	0.011
eGFR, ml/min/1.73 m ²	106.55 ± 15.15	112.12 ± 15.88	0.013
Urinary ACR category			0.039
ACR ≥30 mg/g	17 (22.67%)	17 (11.07%)	
ACR <30 mg/g	58 (77.33%)	125 (88.03%)	
Urinary NGAL, ng/ml	44.64 ± 32.24	32.38 ± 23.33	<0.001
Plasma NGAL, ng/ml	95.22 ± 35.47	103.49 ± 78.86	0.397
Uric acid, μmol/L	361.08 ± 90.72	440.49 ± 110.35	<0.001
TG, mmol/L	2.23 ± 1.77	2.26 ± 1.05	0.861
TC, mmol/L	4.75 ± 1.14	4.99 ± 1.07	0.118
HDL-c, mmol/L	1.02 ± 0.21	0.95 ± 0.18	0.026
LDL-c, mmol/L	2.81 ± 0.95	3.18 ± 0.93	0.008
HbA1c, %	6.45 ± 1.68	6.00 ± 1.16	0.022
HOMA-IR	5.68 ± 10.13	5.74 ± 12.17	0.972
Comorbid disease			
Diabetes, <i>n</i> (%)	26 (34.47%)	28 (19.72%)	0.015
Hypertension, <i>n</i> (%)	21 (28%)	19 (13.38%)	0.008
CKD, <i>n</i> (%)	22 (29.33%)	25 (17.61%)	0.046
Dyslipidemia, <i>n</i> (%)	72 (96%)	140 (98.59%)	0.273
Obesity, <i>n</i> (%)	37 (49.33%)	106 (74.65%)	<0.001
Hyperuricemia, <i>n</i> (%)	23 (30.67%)	86 (60.56%)	<0.001
Anthropometry			
Waist circumference, cm	89.77 ± 8.58	93.34 ± 8.43	0.004
BMI, kg/m ²	25.87 ± 3.27	27.35 ± 5.24	0.027
Liver histology			

Steatosis, <i>n</i> (%)			<0.001
1	55 (73.33%)	39 (27.46%)	
2	10 (13.33%)	43 (30.28%)	
3	10 (13.33%)	60 (42.25%)	
Hepatocyte ballooning, <i>n</i> (%)			0.207
0	5 (6.67%)	3 (2.11%)	
1	41 (54.67%)	76 (53.52%)	
2	29 (38.67%)	63 (44.37%)	
Lobular inflammation, <i>n</i> (%)			0.081
0	6 (80%)	7 (4.93%)	
1	61 (81.33%)	100 (70.42%)	
2	8 (10.67%)	33 (23.24%)	
3	0	2 (1.41%)	
Fibrosis, <i>n</i> (%)			0.105
0	27 (36%)	34 (23.94%)	
1	27 (36%)	77 (54.23%)	
2	17 (22.67%)	22 (15.49%)	
3	4 (5.33%)	6 (4.23%)	
4	0	1 (0.70%)	

Sample size, *n*=217.

ALB = albumin, ALP = alkaline phosphatase, GGT = gamma-glutamyl transferase, nALT = normal alanine aminotransferase, abnALT = abnormal alanine aminotransferase, ACR = albumin to creatinine ratio, BMI = body mass index, Scr = serum creatinine, SBP = systolic blood pressure, DBP = diastolic blood pressure, FPG = fasting plasma glucose, LDL-c = low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, HDL-c = high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, UA = uric acid, TC = total cholesterol, TG = triglycerides, HOMA-IR = homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance, eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate, CKD = chronic kidney disease, NGAL = neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin.