

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients with biopsy-proven metabolic-associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD).

	Total (n = 561)	Hepatic necro-inflammation		P-value
		Mild (grades 0-2) (n = 286)	Severe (grades 3-5) (n = 275)	
MAFLD				
Single etiology, n (%)	482 (85.9)	236 (82.5)	246 (89.5)	0.018
Dual etiology				
Concomitant with alcohol abuse, n (%)	47 (8.4)	32 (11.2)	15 (5.5)	0.014
Concomitant with hepatitis B or C, n (%)	36 (6.4)	20 (7.0)	16 (5.8)	0.570
Demographic parameters				
Men (%)	429 (76.5)	226 (79.0)	203 (73.8)	0.146
Age (years)	41.3 ± 13	42.3 ± 13	40.4 ± 13	0.083
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	27.0 ± 3.6	26.3 ± 3.0	27.7 ± 4.0	<0.001
Waist circumference (cm)	92.0 (86.0 - 97.5)	90.5 (84.0 - 96.0)	94.0 (88.0 - 99.0)	<0.001
Laboratory parameters				
hs-C-reactive protein (mg/L)	0.50 (0 - 1.5)	0.0 (0.0 - 1.0)	0.90 (0.1 - 1.9)	<0.001
Alanine aminotransferase (U/L)	50.0 (32.0 - 88.0)	42.0 (30.2 - 70.0)	63.0 (36.5 - 108.5)	<0.001
Aspartate aminotransferase (U/L)	35.0 (25.0 - 54.0)	31.0 (24.0 - 43.8)	42.0 (29.0 - 61.0)	<0.001
Gamma-glutamyltranspeptidase (U/L)	53.0 (34.0 - 85.0)	51.0 (33.0 - 79.0)	56.0 (35.5 - 94.0)	0.134
Total bilirubin (µmol/L)	12.0 (10.0 - 16.0)	12.0 (10.0 - 15.0)	13.0 (10.0 - 17.0)	0.025
Albumin (g/L)	46.1 ± 3.7	46.1 ± 3.9	46.1 ± 3.6	0.872
Fasting glucose (mmol/L)	5.8 ± 1.6	5.7 ± 1.4	5.9 ± 1.8	0.060
Fasting insulin (pmol/L)	106.8 (73.2 - 149.1)	91.9 (62.9 - 136.8)	116.9 (85.2 - 163.4)	<0.001
HOMA-IR score	3.6 (2.5 - 5.2)	3.2 (2.2 - 4.6)	3.9 (3.0 - 6.0)	<0.001
Blood urea nitrogen (mmol/L)	4.8 ± 1.3	4.8 ± 1.2	4.8 ± 1.3	0.579

Creatinine (μmol/L)	68.0 (58.0 - 77.0)	68.0 (59.0 - 78.0)	67.0 (57.0 - 75.0)	0.022
Total cholesterol (mmol/L)	5.1 ± 1.2	5.0 ± 1.2	5.3 ± 1.2	0.003
Triglycerides (mmol/L)	2.0 (1.4 - 3.0)	1.9 (1.3 - 2.8)	2.1 (1.6 - 3.1)	0.002
High-density lipoprotein cholesterol (mmol/L)	1.0 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.3	0.812
Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (mmol/L)	3.0 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 0.9	3.1 ± 1.0	0.620
Serum zinc (μmol/L)	17.0 ± 4.1	17.6 ± 4.0	16.3 ± 4.2	<0.001
Metabolic comorbidities				
Hypertension (%)	125 (22.3)	65 (22.7)	60 (21.8)	0.796
Type 2 diabetes (%)	136 (24.2)	74 (25.9)	62 (22.5)	0.358
Liver histology features				
Steatosis (%)				<0.001
Mild (grade 1)	213 (38.0)	144 (50.3)	69 (25.1)	
Severe (grades 2-3)	348 (62.0)	142 (49.7)	206 (74.9)	
Fibrosis (%)				0.714
Mild (stages 0-1)	420 (74.9)	216 (75.5)	204 (74.2)	
Severe (stages 2-4)	141 (25.1)	70 (24.5)	71 (25.8)	

Note: Continuous variables were expressed as means ± standard deviation or medians with interquartile ranges. Categorical variables were expressed as numbers (percentages). For the sake of clarity, significant p-values have been highlighted in bold.

Abbreviations: HOMA-IR, homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance.