

**Appendix 2.** Definition of metabolic-associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD)

MAFLD defined as having both HS and any of the following three metabolic conditions: overweight/obesity, diabetes mellitus, or metabolic dysregulation in lean individuals. Metabolic dysregulation was defined as presence of at least two of the following metabolic risk abnormalities: waist circum-

ference  $\geq 90$  cm in men and  $\geq 80$  cm in women, blood pressure  $\geq 130/85$  mmHg, plasma triglycerides  $\geq 150$  mg/dL, plasma high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol  $< 1$  and  $1.3$  mmol/L in men and women respectively, prediabetes (fasting glucose  $5.6$ – $6.9$  mmol/L or HbA1c  $5.7$ – $6.4\%$ ).