**Supplementary results**

**Distribution of educational levels among the study cohorts**

For Cohort I, 275 patients (9.0%) did not provide data on their education, 328 (10.8%) had only 4 years of school, 1007 (33.1%) had 8 years of school representing today’s minimum educational level, 813 (26.7%) completed an apprenticeship, 317 (10.4%) had 12 years of school without final exam, 138 (4.5%) had 8 years of school with final exam, 55 (1.8%) completed a college degree and 110 (3.6%) completed an university degree. For Cohort II, 26 patients (2.9%) did not provide data on their education, 26 (2.9%) had only 4 years of school, 77 (8.6%) had 8 years of school representing today’s minimum educational level, 416 (46.5%) completed an apprenticeship, 90 (10.1%) had 12 years of school without final exam, 111 (12.4%) had 8 years of school with final exam, 59 (6.6%) completed a college degree and 89 (10.0%) completed an university degree.

**Fibrosis, transaminase levels and dietary patterns**

When comparing these groups in terms of liver-related parameters, Fib-4 score and the prevalence of advanced fibrosis were increasing together with higher mean transaminase levels (Supplementary Table 1). Results were similar for cohort II. Of note, CAP values and the proportion of patients with severe steatosis (>280dB/m) increased in parallel with increasing BMI in NAFLD patients. Although we compared dietary and lifestyle habits among lean subjects with and without NAFLD, no consistent difference was observed among both cohorts (data not shown).

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