

Supplementary Table 1 The test method and equipment of clinical indicators.

Test method	Equipment	Clinical indicators
Hexokinase method	Automatic biochemical analyzer, Beckman, AU5800	FBG
Anion-exchange high-performance liquid chromatography	Automatic hemoglobin A1c analyzer, Bio-Bio-Rad,D100	HbA1c
Colorimetric method	Automatic biochemical analyzer, Beckman Coulter AU5800	RBP, TG, TC, HDL-C, LDL-C, ALT, AST, UA, eGFR
IMMULITE 1000 Immunoassay System	Chemiluminescence immunoanalyzer, Roche, cobas e801	CRP
Flow cytometry	Fully automated hematology analyzer, Sysmex XS-800i	WBC

RBP, retinol-binding protein; SBP, systolic blood pressure; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; CHD, coronary heart disease; BMI, body mass index; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin; FBG, fasting blood glucose; TC, total cholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol; WBC, white blood cell; CRP, C-reactive protein; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; UA, uric acid; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate.

Supplementary Table 2 Association between the serum retinol-binding protein level and lower limb atherosclerosis risk in type 2 diabetes mellitus patients after removing abnormal values.

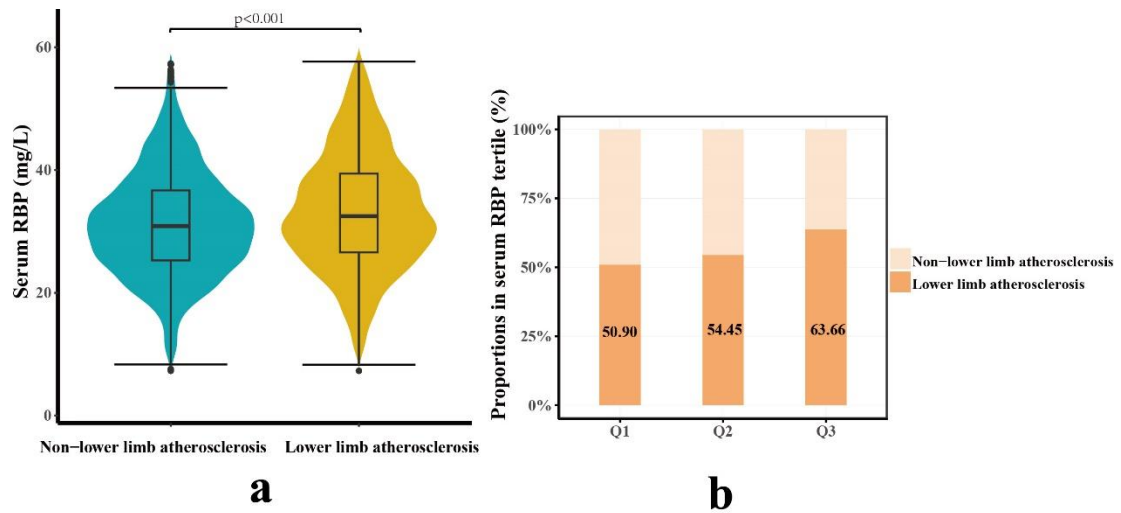
Serum RBP levels	Model 1 OR (95%CI)	Model 1 P value	Model 2 OR (95%CI)	Model 2 P value	Model 3 OR (95%CI)	Model 3 P value
Continuous	1.02 (1.02, 1.03)	<0.001	1.02 (1.01, 1.02)	<0.001	1.01 (1.01, 1.02)	0.002
Tertiles						
Q1	Reference		Reference		Reference	
Q2	1.15 (1.00, 1.33)	0.057	1.07 (0.91, 1.27)	0.400	1.07 (0.90, 1.28)	0.400
Q3	1.69 (1.46, 1.96)	<0.001	1.38 (1.16, 1.64)	<0.001	1.33 (1.09, 1.62)	0.005
P for trend	<0.001		<0.001		0.005	

RBP: retinol-binding protein; OR: odds ratio

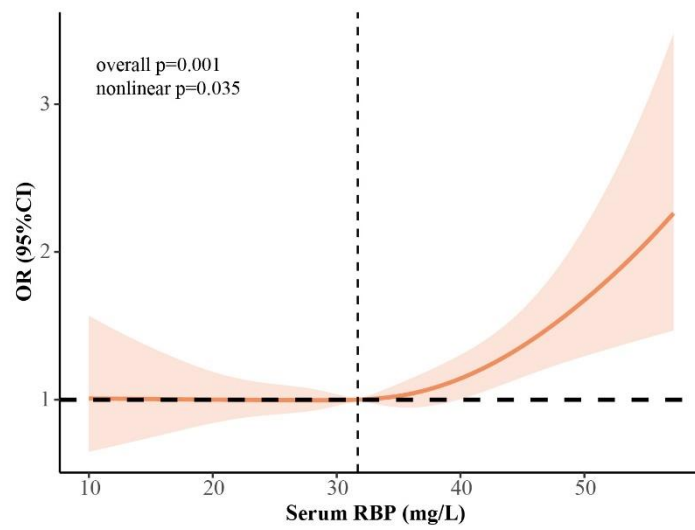
Model 1: unadjusted.

Model 2: adjusted for age, gender, BMI, cigarette smoking history, alcohol consumption history, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and CHD.

Model 3: adjusted for age, gender, BMI, cigarette smoking history, alcohol consumption history, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, CHD, SBP, DBP, FBG, HbA1c, TC, TG, HDL-C, LDL-C, AST, ALT, UA, CRP, WBC, and eGFR.



Supplementary Figure 1 The serum RBP levels and RBP tertile proportions in lower limb atherosclerosis and non- lower limb atherosclerosis patients with T2DM after removing abnormal values. **a.** Comparison of the serum RBP levels in the non- lower limb atherosclerosis and lower limb atherosclerosis group T2DM patients; **b.** percentage of T2DM patients with lower limb atherosclerosis in different serum RBP tertiles.



Supplementary Figure 2 Dose-response relationship between the serum RBP levels and lower limb atherosclerosis risk in T2DM patients. OR: Odds Ratio.