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Association of predicted fat mass, predicted lean mass, and predicted percent fat with diabetes mellitus in Chinese: a 15-year prospective cohort

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4 **Association of predicted fat mass, predicted lean mass, and predicted**
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6 **percent fat with diabetes mellitus in Chinese: a 15-year prospective**
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8 **cohort**
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Abstract

Objectives: With BMI failing to distinguish the mass of fat from lean, several novel predicted equations for predicted fat mass (FM), predicted lean mass (LM), and predicted percent fat (PF) were recently developed and validated. Our aim was to explore whether the three novel parameters could better predict DM than the commonly used obesity indicators, including BMI, waist circumference, hip circumference, and waist-hip ratio.

Design: A 15-year prospective cohort was used.

Setting: It was a prospective cohort, consisting of a general Chinese population from 1992 to 2007.

Participants: This cohort enrolled 711 people. People suffering from DM at baseline ($n = 24$) were excluded, and 687 non-diabetics with complete data were included to the analysis.

Primary outcome: New-onset DM.

Results: During the follow-up, 74 (48 men and 26 women) incidences of DM were documented. For men, the adjusted HRs were 1, 5.19 ($p = 0.003$), and 7.67 ($p < 0.001$) across predicted PF tertiles; 1, 2.86 ($p = 0.029$), and 5.60 ($p < 0.001$) across predicted FM tertiles; 1, 1.21 ($p = 0.646$), and 2.27 ($p = 0.025$) across predicted LM tertiles. Predicted FM performed better than other commonly used obesity indicators in discrimination with the highest Harrell's C-statistic among all the body composition parameters. Whereas, for women, none of the three novel parameters was the independent predictor.

Conclusion: Predicted PF, predicted LM, and predicted FM could independently predict the risk of DM for men, with predicted FM performing better than other commonly used obesity indicators in discrimination. For women, larger samples were further needed.

Key words: BMI, diabetes, fat mass, lean mass, obesity, percent fat

Strengths and limitations of this study

1. This study explored whether the three novel body composition parameters, including predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF, could predict DM better than BMI and other commonly used obesity indicators.
2. Cox's regression analysis was used to estimate HRs for DM, and Harrell's C-statistic was used to assess and compare the discriminatory power of all the parameters in predicting new-onset DM.
3. The relatively small sample size might possibly lead to a statistical power decrease.

Introduction

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a collection of chronic metabolic conditions, characterized by elevated blood glucose levels resulting from the body's inability to produce insulin or resistance to insulin action, or both(1). There are two primary forms of DM, insulin-dependent DM (type 1 diabetes mellitus, T1DM) and non-insulin-dependent DM (type 2 diabetes mellitus, T2DM). T2DM is the most common form, making up 90% - 95% of all diabetic patients(1). DM and its complications can result in disability and premature death(2), as well as enormous economic and social burdens(3). There is no cure for DM, thus, prevention is the best intervention.

Among the well-known modifiable risk factors, obesity, defined as an excess accumulation of body fat, is regarded as a major risk factor(4). Body mass index (BMI) has been mostly used as a simple and reasonable measure of general adiposity in clinical and public health settings. However, since it is defined as the result of weight in kilogram divided by height in meter squared, BMI is in poor discrimination of metabolically distinct components such as fat mass (FM) and lean mass (LM)(5). Direct measurement of FM and LM is impractical in large epidemiological studies for sophisticated and expensive technologies such as dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) or imaging techniques (i.e. MRI and computerized tomography).

Recently, Lee et al developed anthropometric prediction equations for FM, LM, and percent fat (PF) from the large population samples of the noninstitutionalized civilians in the USA from National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey(6). In the original study, the validation tests showed robust and consistent results without evident substantial bias, and comparable abilities to predict obesity-related biomarkers with direct DXA measurements. Later, based on two large US prospective cohorts, predicted FM and predicted PF were both estimated to have a stronger association than BMI with

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4 T2DM(7). However, body compositions differ across ethnic groups(8, 9). Healthy Chinese and South
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6 Asian individuals were measured to have a greater amount of visceral adipose tissue than Europeans
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9 with the same BMI or waist circumference(10). Therefore, we aimed to evaluate if these equations
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11 could better predict the risk of DM in comparison with BMI and other obesity indicators, including
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13 waist circumference (WC), hip circumference (HC), and waist-hip ratio (WHR), in a 15-year
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17 prospective cohort consisting of Chinese people.
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22 **Materials and methods**

23 **Patient and Public Involvement**

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25 In 2007, supported by the Mega-projects of Science Research for China's 11th five-year plan
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27 (Trends in the incidence of metabolic syndrome and integrated control in China), a group of 711
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29 people, from an urban community situated in Chengdu, China, underwent a health examination. They
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31 also had a health examination in 1992 as part of the Chinese Multi-provincial Cohort Study approved
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33 by Beijing Institute of Heart, Lung, and Blood Vessel Disease that investigated cardiovascular risk
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35 factors across the country. Therefore, we picked up the data, and more details have been described
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37 elsewhere(11, 12). People suffering from DM at baseline (n = 24) were excluded. No one had missing
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39 data. Finally, the remaining 687 people with complete data were included in the analysis. All of them
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41 provided written informed consent. The study was approved by the Ministry of Health of China, as
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43 well as the Ethics Committee of West China Hospital of Sichuan University.
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52 **Evaluation**

53 **Definition**

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58 DM was defined by self-reported history or fasting plasma glucose (FPG) ≥ 7.0 mmol/L(13).
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Hypertension was a conventional blood pressure of ≥ 140 mm Hg systolic, ≥ 90 mm Hg diastolic, or the use of antihypertensive drugs. DM family history was determined with a diagnosis of DM in the first-grade relatives. Smoking was defined as an average cigarette consumption of at least one per day.

Frequent previous alcohol intake and present alcohol intake were both defined as alcohol consumption.

Activity was defined as at least twice 20-minute moderately intensive physical activity per week.

Data collection

Baseline data in 1992 included medical history, physical examination, and biochemical tests.

Questionnaires containing demographic information and cardiovascular disease risk factors were collected by well-trained investigators. WC was measured at the midpoint between the lower border of the rib cage and the iliac crest at the end of a normal exhalation. HC was measured at the maximum protrusion of the gluteal region. WHR was calculated by WC in cm divided by HC in cm. Height was measured without shoes. Weight was measured in light clothing. Blood pressure was measured in a sitting position after at least 15 min of rest, and the mean blood pressure of three measurements taken by a standardized mercury sphygmomanometer was used as a participant's blood pressure. Blood samples were drawn from participants in the morning after 12-h overnight fasting. FPG, total cholesterol (TC), and triglyceride (TG) levels were determined in an enzymatic method, and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) was measured by the phosphotungstic acid/MgCl₂ precipitation method. Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) was measured using a standard kit.

Equation profiles

Equations for predicted FM (kg)⁽⁶⁾

For men = $-18.592 - 0.009 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.080 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.226 \times \text{weight (kg)}$
 $+ 0.387 \times \text{WC (cm)} + 0.080 \times \text{Mexican} - 0.188 \times \text{Hispanic} - 0.483 \times \text{Black} + 1.050 \times$

other ethnicity

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For women} &= 11.817 + 0.041 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.199 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.610 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &+ 0.044 \times \text{WC (cm)} \\ &+ 0.388 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.073 \times \text{Hispanic} - 1.187 \times \text{Black} + 0.325 \times \text{other ethnicity} \end{aligned}$$

Equations for predicted LM (kg)(6)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For men} &= 19.363 + 0.001 \times \text{age (year)} + 0.064 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.756 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &- 0.366 \times \text{WC (cm)} \\ &- 0.066 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.231 \times \text{Hispanic} + 0.432 \times \text{Black} - 1.007 \times \text{other ethnicity} \\ \text{For women} &= -10.683 - 0.039 \times \text{age (years)} + 0.186 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.383 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &- 0.043 \times \text{WC (cm)} \\ &- 0.359 \times \text{Mexican} - 0.059 \times \text{Hispanic} + 1.085 \times \text{Black} - 0.34 \times \text{other ethnicity} \end{aligned}$$

Equations for predicted PF (%) (6)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For men} &= 0.02 + 0.00 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.07 \times \text{height (cm)} - 0.08 \times \text{weight (kg)} + 0.48 \times \text{WC} \\ &(\text{cm}) + 0.32 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.02 \times \text{Hispanic} - 0.65 \times \text{Black} + 1.12 \times \text{other ethnicity} \\ \text{For women} &= 50.46 + 0.07 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.26 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.27 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &+ 0.10 \times \text{WC (cm)} + 0.89 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.49 \times \text{Hispanic} - 1.57 \times \text{Black} + 0.43 \times \text{other ethnicity} \end{aligned}$$

Statistical analyses

For descriptive results, variables were expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation (SD), median and interquartile range, or counts and percentages as appropriate. Smoking, alcohol intake, activity, hypertension, and family history of DM were expressed as dummy variables (presence= 1, absence= 0). Differences in baseline characteristics between participants with and without new-onset DM were tested by independent t-test for normally distributed variables and by the non-parametric Mann-

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4 Whitney U-test for skewed variables. Interactions between categorical variables were evaluated with
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6 the Pearson χ^2 test, Fisher's exact probabilities were used if necessary. Correlations between different
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8 variables were determined using Pearson's or Spearman's analysis.
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11 We treated all the parameters as sex-specific tertiles. The cumulative incidences of DM across
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13 tertiles were graphically displayed according to the method of Kaplan-Meier, with comparisons among
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15 groups by the log-rank test. Cox proportional hazards regression models were used to assess the impact
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17 of the variables on the incidence rate of DM. Furthermore, restricted cubic spline analysis was used to
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19 visualize the relations between variables and incident DM. To quantify and compare the discriminative
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21 ability of different parameters, Harrell's c-index was calculated. A generally accepted approach
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23 suggests that the C-index of less than 0.60 reflects poor discrimination; 0.60 to 0.75, possibly helpful
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25 discrimination; and more than 0.75, clearly useful discrimination(14).
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32 All statistical tests were 2-sided, and p value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.
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34 Statistical analyses were performed using R version 3.6.3.
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40 **Results**

41 **Baseline characteristics**

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43 After excluding people suffering from DM at baseline (n = 24), the remaining 687 (399 men and
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45 288 women) people free of DM at baseline with complete data were included in the analysis.
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50 Those who had subsequent DM were associated with higher baseline levels of FPG, weight, BMI,
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52 WC, HC, predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF for the males; associated with higher baseline
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54 levels of TC, TG, height, BMI, WC, HC, predicted FM, and predicted PF, and lower baseline level of
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56 HDL-C for the females. At baseline, age was not of significance between the group, but there was still
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4 a trend that people suffering incident DM were older. Other details of baseline information were shown
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6 in Table 1.
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9 As Table S1 showed, predicted FM was strongly correlated with WC ($r_s = 0.98$), followed by BMI
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11 ($r_s = 0.88$) and HC ($r_s = 0.82$) in men; strongly correlated with BMI ($r_s = 0.94$), followed by HC ($r_s =$
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13 0.87) and WC ($r_s = 0.83$) in women. Predicted LM had a strong correlation with predicted FM ($r_s =$
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15 0.83) in women and a relatively strong correlation with HC ($r_s = 0.71$) in men, but relatively weakly
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17 with WHR both in men ($r_s = 0.15$) and women ($r_s = 0.29$). Predicted PF was strongly correlated with
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19 WC ($r_s = 0.97$) in men and BMI ($r_s = 0.95$) in women, but relatively weakly with predicted LM both in
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21 men ($r_s = 0.35$) and women ($r_s = 0.51$).
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26 27 **Survival analysis** 28

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30 All the body composition parameters were divided into tertiles. Tertile 1 had the lowest estimated
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32 values while Tertile 3 had the highest. During the follow-up, 74 (48 men and 26 women) incidences of
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34 DM were documented (incidence rate: 0.17 per 100 person-years; 95% CI: 0.57-0.91). The cumulative
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36 incidences of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis were significantly different across the tertiles of
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38 predicted FM (log-rank $p = 0.001$), predicted LM (log-rank $p = 0.030$), and predicted PF (log-rank $p <$
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40 0.001) in men (Figure 1A-C), and people in the top tertile had the highest cumulative incidence of DM.
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42 For women, only predicted PF (log-rank $p = 0.028$) could help to distinguish the cumulative incidence
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44 across the tertiles (Figure 1D).
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51 For other obesity indicators, the cumulative incidences of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis
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53 were significantly different across the tertiles of BMI (log-rank $p < 0.001$), WC (log-rank $p = 0.001$),
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55 HC (log-rank $p = 0.006$), and WHR (log-rank $p = 0.001$) in men; WC (log-rank $p = 0.002$) and WHR
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57 (log-rank $p < 0.001$) in women.
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Relation to risk of DM

Univariate cox regression analysis was shown in Table S2. Predicted FM, predicted PF, BMI, WC, HC, and WHR were risk factors of DM for both men and women, and predicted LM was a risk factor for men only. Variables showing statistical significance or clinically relevance ($p < 0.1$) were entered into multivariate analysis.

In multivariate analysis, we adjusted potential confounders including hypertension (yes/no), DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), TG, TC, HDL-C, LDL-C, and FPG. As Table 2 showed, in the male group, predicted FM ($p < 0.001$), predicted LM ($p = 0.043$), and predicted PF ($p < 0.001$) were still significant predictors, with the top tertile associated with a higher risk of DM. Other commonly used parameters such as BMI ($p < 0.001$), WC ($p < 0.001$), HC ($p = 0.004$) and WHR ($p < 0.001$) were also significant predictors (Table S3). Higher predicted PF was more strongly associated with increased risk of DM, since it showed a positive association to the risk of DM with the adjusted HRs for Tertile 2 and Tertile 3 estimated as 5.19 ($p = 0.003$) and 7.67 ($p < 0.001$), respectively, in comparison with Tertile 1. There was a positive association across tertiles between predicted FM and the risk of DM as well (HR: 2.86, $p = 0.029$ for Tertile 2; HR: 5.60, $p < 0.001$ for Tertile 3, respectively). WC and WHR showed a positive association across tertiles (Table S3). However, there was no significant difference in risk of DM between Tertile 2 and Tertile 1 of predicted LM (HR: 1.21, 95% CI: 0.54-2.70, $p = 0.646$).

As for the female group, however, none of the three novel parameters was significantly independent (Table 2). Only WHR ($p < 0.001$) remained stable and significant (Table S3).

Furthermore, we treated the predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF as continuous variables and used restricted cubic splines to flexibly models and visualize the relations with risk of

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4 DM (Figure S1 for men and S2 for women). Confounders in Table 2 were adjusted. Consistently with
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6 the results above as categorical variables, predicted PF and predicted FM, but not predicted LM,
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8 showed a completely positive association in men with the medians as reference points (Figure S1);
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10 while in women, the relations were not completely significant (Table 2, Figure S2)
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13 14 **Discrimination**

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17 In the male group, predicted FM had the highest Harrell's c-index of 0.679 (95% CI: 0.606-
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19 0.752), followed by BMI of 0.675 (95% CI: 0.599-0.751), WC of 0.673 (95% CI: 0.600-0.746),
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21 predicted PF of 0.670 (95% CI: 0.598-0.742), WHR of 0.652 (95% CI: 0.578-0.726), HC of 0.636
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23 (95% CI: 0.560-0.712), and predicted LM of 0.619 (95% CI: 0.537-0.701). All of these parameters
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25 could provide a possibly helpful discriminative power(14).
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30 In the female group, since WHR was the only significantly independent risk factor of DM, we just
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32 estimated Harrell's c-index (0.768, 95% CI: 0.697-0.839) of WHR, and it showed a clearly useful
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34 discriminative power(14).
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40 41 **Discussion**

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43 In this study, we investigated the predictive abilities for the risk of DM of three novel body
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45 composition parameters including predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF, and compared with
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47 other obesity indicators, in a Chinese prospective population during 15 years of follow-up. For men,
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49 our results showed predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF could independently predict the new
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51 onset of DM; in all the parameters we studied, predicted FM had the best discriminative power,
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53 providing possibly helpful information. For women, none of the three novel parameters could be
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55 significantly independent in multivariate analysis; of all the parameters we estimated, WHR was the
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4 only independent predictor, with Harrell's c-index of 0.768, which suggested a clearly useful
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6 discrimination.
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9 To our knowledge, this was the first study in a Chinese prospective cohort to evaluate the
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11 associations of three novel body composition parameters with the incidence of DM. BMI has been
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13 preferred as a measure indicating overall obesity for a long time to identify people at increased risk of
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15 DM(15). However, BMI was not thought a good indicator of obesity.(5, 16). It fails to distinguish the
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17 mass of fat from lean, and had no gender distinction as well. For example, in common sense, athletes or
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19 someone liking exercise always had heavier weight for the mass of lean, they have greater BMI but
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21 they are not obese. Besides, aging is associated with an accumulation of visceral fat and a progressive
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23 loss of muscle mass(16). With the same BMI, an old man has more mass of fat but less mass of muscle
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25 than a younger man.
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33 Recently, Lee et al. (6) developed equations predicting FM, LM, and PF to better reflect body
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35 composition. The predicted equations had a simple calculation and just require the information of
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37 gender, age, height, weight, WC, and ethnicity, which are easily measurable and accessible in clinical
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39 settings or even at home. Lee et al. later investigated the association between predicted FM and risk of
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41 DM in two large prospective cohorts of US men and women(7). They found predicted FM, as well as
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43 predicted PF, had a stronger association than BMI both in men and women. Similarly, in our study
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45 consisting of Chinese population, in the male group, both predicted PF and predicted FM could
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47 independently predict incident DM. Predicted FM had the highest Harrell's. Higher predicted PF was
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49 more strongly than other parameters associated with increased risk of DM.
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56 Besides in prediction of DM, predicted FM and predicted PF were also explored in the association
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58 with risk of heart failure and myocardial infarction in adults with T2DM(17). The results showed a
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4 decline in predicted FM but not predicted LM, over 1 year was significantly associated with lower risk
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6 of overall heart failure (adjusted HR per 10% decrease in predicted FM: 0.80; 95% CI: 0.68-0.95);
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9 decline in predicted FM was significantly associated with lower risk of both heart failure subtypes
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12 (with preserved or reduced ejection fraction).

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14 In a post hoc analysis of data from the Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes
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16 (ACCORD) study(18), researchers modified the two parameters, fat mass index and lean BMI,
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18 calculated by predicted FM and predicted LM, respectively, in kilograms divided by the square of
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20 height in meters. They found that in patients with T2DM, fat mass index had a strong positive
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22 association with a higher risk of a major adverse cardiovascular event, while predicted lean BMI was
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24 not associated with major cardiovascular events (p = 0.34).

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30 In a large prospective US cohort study of men(19), there was a strong positive association
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32 between predicted FM and mortality from all causes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. Compared
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34 with those in the lowest fifth of predicted FM, men in the highest fifth had an HR of 1.35 (95% CI:
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36 1.26-1.46) for all-cause mortality. In contrast, predicted LM showed a U-shaped association with all-
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38 cause mortality that men in the second to fourth fifths had 8-10% lower risk. The U-shaped
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40 associations were also found with deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer. However, there was a
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42 strong inverse association between predicted LM and mortality from respiratory disease.

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48 Lean body mass accounts for most of the human body mass, and it is essential not only in the
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50 stress response but also in metabolism(20). Muscle loss may have negative effects(20-22). Son et al.
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52 previously conducted a 2-yearly prospective assessment in middle-aged and older Korean adults, and
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54 reported that low muscle mass was associated with an increased risk of T2DM, independent of general
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56 obesity(23). In contrast, in our research, for the development of DM, the protective role of predicted
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4 LM could not be concluded. Instead, the top tertile of predicted LM had an increased risk in the male
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6 group. Since there is a lack of randomized clinical trial studies that directly assess the role of increased
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8 muscle mass in the prevention of new on-set DM(24), the association between predicted LM and risk
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10 of DM needs further explorations. After all, increased LM was not always simply reported as the
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12 protective factor of diseases or mortality(17-19).
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17 There are certainly some limitations in our study. Firstly, 687 was a relatively small sample size,
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19 possibly leading to a statistical power decrease, for example, the results for women. But we still
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21 observed that as a continuous variable, predicted PF could independently predict the risk of incident
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23 DM. Maybe in a larger population, the relations and comparisons would be more accurate. Secondly,
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25 due to the absence of oral glucose tolerance tests (OGTT) and hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) data in our
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27 study, some people might not be adequately diagnosed. Thirdly, only one follow-up examination was
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29 carried out, so that there was no guarantee whether some “interval censoring” might have occurred.
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35 In conclusion, in the general Chinese population, predicted PF, predicted LM, and predicted FM
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37 could independently predict the risk of DM for men, and predicted FM performed better than other
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39 commonly used obesity indicators including BMI, WC, HC, and WHR, in discrimination. For women,
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41 however, predicted PF, predicted LM, predicted FM, as well as other obesity indicators, but WHR,
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43 could not remain stable and independent in multivariate analysis, which might be attributed to the
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45 relatively small sample. Therefore, larger samples from different races are needed to explore the
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47 predictive strength of the novel equations reflecting body composition on incident DM and other
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49 diseases.
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Competing interests

None declared.

Contributors

LL and SSJ: Participated in the conception and design of the study, performed the data collection and the statistical analysis, and wrote the draft of the manuscript. SH and XPC: Participated in the design of the study, performed the statistical analysis, and revised subsequent drafts. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Data availability statement

The data sets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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Table 1. Basic characteristics of people with or without subsequent DM.

| Variables | Men (n=399) | | | Women (n=288) | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| | Subsequent DM (n=48) | Subsequent non-DM (n=351) | p-value | Subsequent DM (n=26) | Subsequent non-DM (n=262) | p-value |
| Age (years) | 50.6 ± 5.0 | 49.0 (45.0-53.0) | 0.079 | 48.4 ± 6.8 | 46.0 (42.0-52.0) | 0.127 |
| Smoking (%) | 32 (66.7%) | 213 (60.7%) | 0.425 | 0 | 2 (0.8%) | 1.000 |
| Hypertension (%) | 9 (18.8%) | 50 (14.2%) | 0.410 | 7 (26.9%) | 38 (14.5%) | 0.150 |
| DM family history (%) | 3 (6.3%) | 9 (2.6%) | 0.165 | 3 (11.5%) | 18 (6.9%) | 0.418 |
| SBP (mm Hg) | 118.1 ± 14.5 | 110.0 (105.0-120.0) | 0.061 | 119.0 (103.0-132.5) | 110.0 (102.0-120.0) | 0.240 |
| DBP (mm Hg) | 74.0 (70.0-80.0) | 72.0 (70.0-80.0) | 0.292 | 76.4 ± 12.1 | 70.0 (71.0-80.0) | 0.226 |
| FPG (mmol/L) | 4.6 ± 0.8 | 4.0 (3.8-4.7) | <0.001 | 4.6 ± 0.9 | 3.8 (4.0-4.7) | 0.052 |
| TC (mmol/l) | 4.4 (4.1-4.8) | 4.3 (3.9-4.8) | 0.419 | 5.0 ± 0.7 | 4.4 (3.9-5.0) | 0.006 |
| TG (mmol/L) | 1.9 (1.7-3.0) | 1.9 (1.5-2.4) | 0.104 | 1.9 (1.5-2.3) | 1.8 (1.4-2.2) | <0.001 |
| HDL-C (mmol/L) | 1.2 (1.0-1.4) | 1.2 (1.1-1.4) | 0.193 | 1.2 ± 0.2 | 1.3 (1.1-1.5) | 0.009 |
| LDL-C (mmol/L) | 2.2 ± 0.8 | 2.1 (1.7-2.7) | 0.556 | 2.4 ± 1.0 | 2.3 (1.8-2.8) | 0.460 |
| Height (cm) | 165.4 ± 5.9 | 165.3 ± 5.6 | 0.898 | 151.9 ± 4.4 | 151.0 (155.0-159.0) | 0.006 |
| Weight (cm) | 68.5 (61.3-74.8) | 62.9 ± 8.2 | <0.001 | 58.6 ± 9.0 | 56.4 ± 7.5 | 0.168 |
| BMI (kg/m ²) | 24.8 (23.0-26.6) | 23.0 (20.9-24.8) | <0.001 | 25.3 ± 3.3 | 23.4 ± 2.6 | 0.001 |
| WC (cm) | 83.6 ± 8.2 | 78.0 (72.0-83.0) | <0.001 | 79.9 ± 7.6 | 73.5 ± 7.1 | <0.001 |
| HC (cm) | 95.0 (90.0-97.0) | 91.0 (87.0-95.0) | <0.001 | 95.4 ± 7.4 | 92.6 ± 5.8 | 0.021 |
| WHR | 0.89 ± 0.05 | 0.85 ± 0.06 | 0.001 | 0.84 ± 0.04 | 0.79 ± 0.05 | <0.001 |
| FM (kg) | 16.4 ± 5.2 | 13.3 (9.6-16.2) | <0.001 | 21.8 ± 5.4 | 19.6 ± 4.3 | 0.014 |
| LM (kg) | 50.2 ± 5.0 | 48.1 ± 4.5 | 0.004 | 34.3 ± 3.5 | 34.4 ± 3.4 | 0.894 |
| PF (%) | 24.0 ± 3.4 | 21.8 ± 3.1 | <0.001 | 38.6 ± 2.9 | 36.4 ± 2.4 | <0.001 |

BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; FM, fat mass; HC, hip circumference; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LM, lean mass; SBP, systolic blood pressure; PF, percent fat; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio.

Table 2 Multivariate Cox regression models for DM

| | Case (%) | Multivariate hazards regression * | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| | | HR (95% CI) | p |
| For men | | | |
| FM | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.18 (1.11-1.25) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 6 (4.54%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 16 (12.21%) | 2.86 (1.12-7.33) | 0.029 |
| T3 | 26 (19.12%) | 5.60 (2.27-13.80) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| LM | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.10 (1.03-1.17) | 0.003 |
| T1 (reference) | 11 (8.33%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 13 (9.92%) | 1.21 (0.54-2.70) | 0.646 |
| T3 | 24 (17.65%) | 2.27 (1.11-4.63) | 0.025 |
| p for trend | | | 0.043 |
| PF | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.25 (1.14-1.36) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (3.03%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 20 (15.27%) | 5.19 (1.77-15.20) | 0.003 |
| T3 | 24 (17.65%) | 7.67 (2.64-22.35) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| Women | | | |
| FM | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.00 (0.91-1.10) | 0.145 |
| T1 (reference) | 5 (5.26%) | 1 | - |

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| | T2 | 9 (9.47%) | 1.00 (0.38-2.63) | 0.625 |
| | T3 | 12 (12.24%) | 1.00 (0.36-2.77) | 0.902 |
| | p for trend | | | 0.780 |
| LM | | | | |
| | per 1-SD increase | | 1.00 (0.89-1.13) | 0.278 |
| | T1 (reference) | 6 (6.28%) | 1 | - |
| | T2 | 13 (13.54%) | 1.00 (0.37-2.68) | 0.126 |
| | T3 | 7 (7.14%) | 1.00 (0.37-2.70) | 0.190 |
| | p for trend | | | 0.271 |
| PF | | | | |
| | per 1-SD increase | | 1.31 (1.11-1.53) | 0.001 |
| | T1 (reference) | 3 (3.16%) | 1 | - |
| | T2 | 9 (9.47%) | 1.00 (0.37-2.69) | 0.763 |
| | T3 | 14 (14.29%) | 1.00 (0.35-2.86) | 0.118 |
| | p for trend | | | 0.197 |

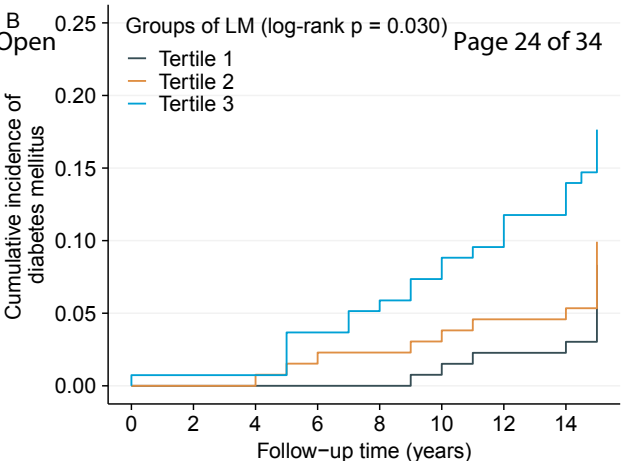
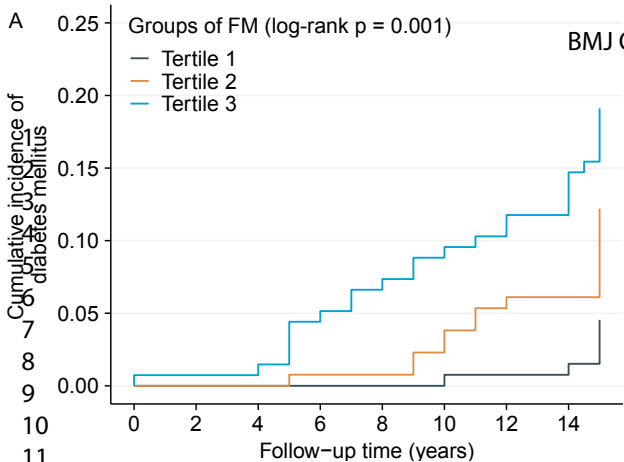
*, adjusted for hypertension (yes/no), DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), TG, TC, HDL-C, LDL-C, and FPG; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; FM, fat mass; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HR, hazard ratio; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LM, lean mass; PF, percent fat; SD, standard deviation; T, tertile; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride

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Figure legends

Figure 1 Cumulative incidence of DM across tertiles of three novel predicted body composition during follow-up.

Survival curves were presented as Kaplan-Meier curves, and the log-rank tests were used for comparison among tertiles. For men (n = 399), the cumulative incidences of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis were significantly different across the tertiles of predicted FM (A, log-rank p = 0.001), predicted LM (B, log-rank p = 0.030), and predicted PF (C, log-rank p < 0.001). For women (n = 288), the cumulative incidence of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis was just significantly different across the tertiles of predicted PF (D, log-rank p = 0.028). People in the top tertile had the highest cumulative incidence of DM. DM = diabetes mellitus

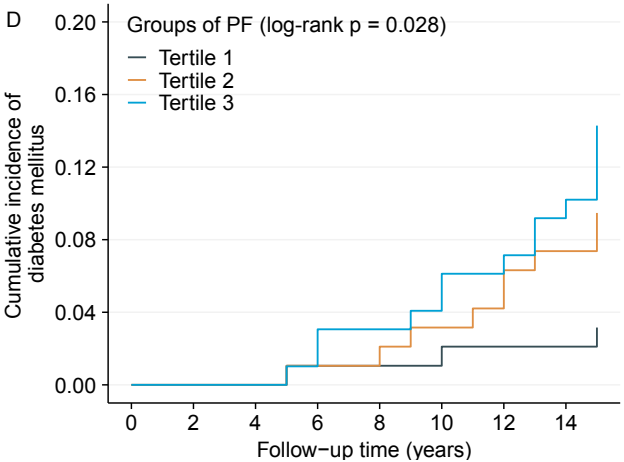
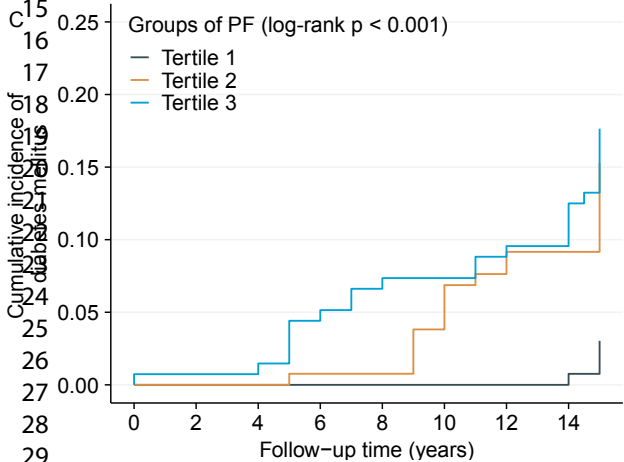


No. at risk

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tertile 1 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 131 | 131 |
| Tertile 2 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 130 | 130 | 128 | 124 | 123 |
| Tertile 3 | 136 | 135 | 135 | 130 | 127 | 124 | 122 | 120 |

No. at risk

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tertile 1 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 131 | 129 | 129 |
| Tertile 2 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 129 | 128 | 127 | 125 | 125 |
| Tertile 3 | 136 | 135 | 135 | 131 | 129 | 126 | 123 | 120 |



No. at risk

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tertile 1 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 |
| Tertile 2 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 130 | 130 | 126 | 121 | 119 |
| Tertile 3 | 136 | 135 | 135 | 130 | 127 | 126 | 124 | 123 |

No. at risk

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Tertile 1 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 94 | 94 | 94 | 93 | 93 |
| Tertile 2 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 94 | 94 | 92 | 91 | 88 |
| Tertile 3 | 98 | 98 | 98 | 97 | 95 | 94 | 92 | 89 |

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Supplemental Digital Content

Figures

- S1: Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for men
- S2: Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for women

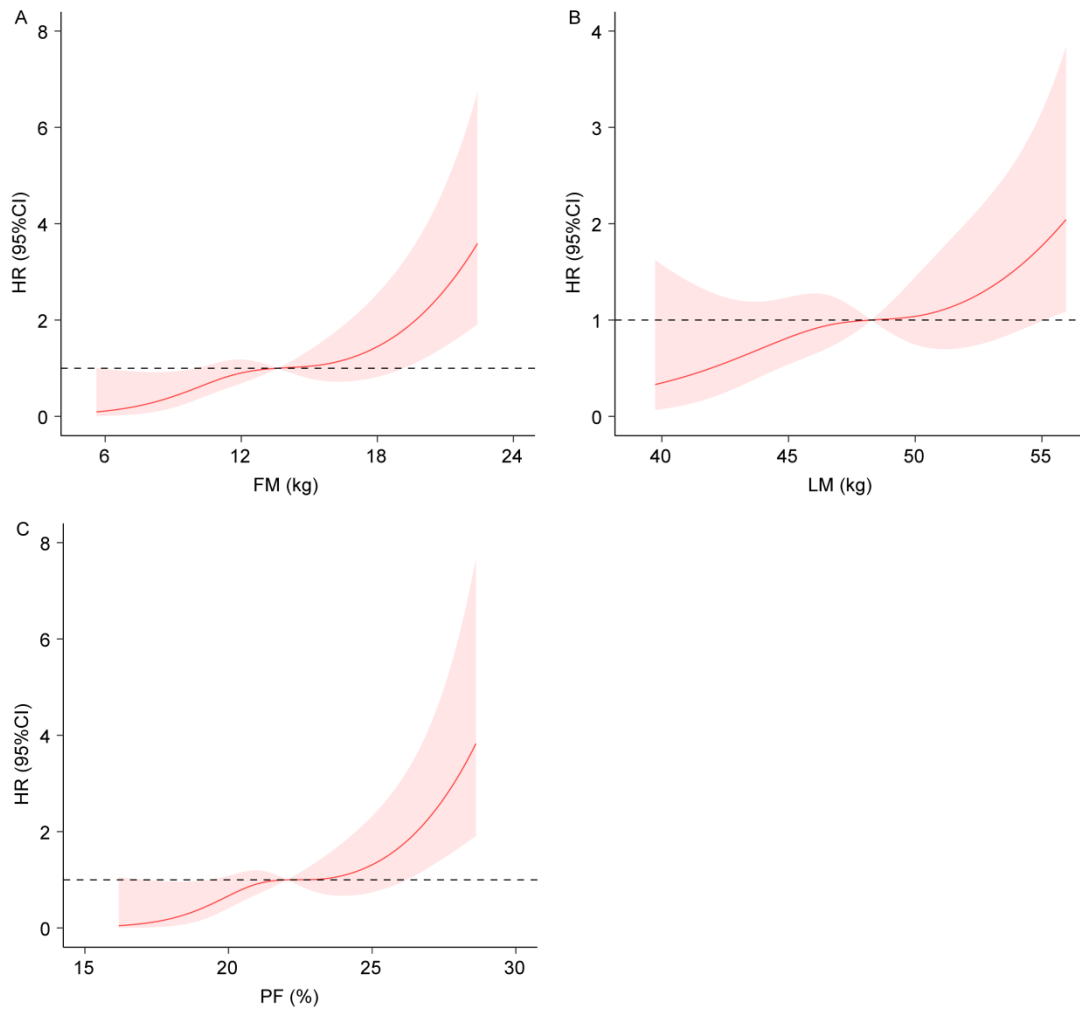
Tables

- S1: Spearman correlations among different predicted body composition
- S2: Univariate Cox regression analysis for DM
- S3: Multivariate Cox regression analysis of commonly used obesity indicators for DM

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Figure S1 Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for men

Restricted cubic splines were used to flexibly model and visualize the relations of different parameters with risk of DM. Hazard ratios are indicated by solid lines and 95% CIs by shaded areas. Reference points were the medians for FM (A; 13.61 kg), LM (B; 48.27 kg), and PF (C; 22.04%), respectively. The dotted line represents HR = 1. Confounders in Table 2 were adjusted.



Preprint

Figure S2 Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for women

Restricted cubic splines were used to flexibly model and visualize the relations of different parameters with risk of DM. Hazard ratios are indicated by solid lines and 95% CIs by shaded areas. Reference points were the medians for FM (A; 19.45 kg), LM (B; 34.38 kg), and PF (C; 36.39%), respectively. The dotted line represents HR = 1. Confounders in Table 2 were adjusted.

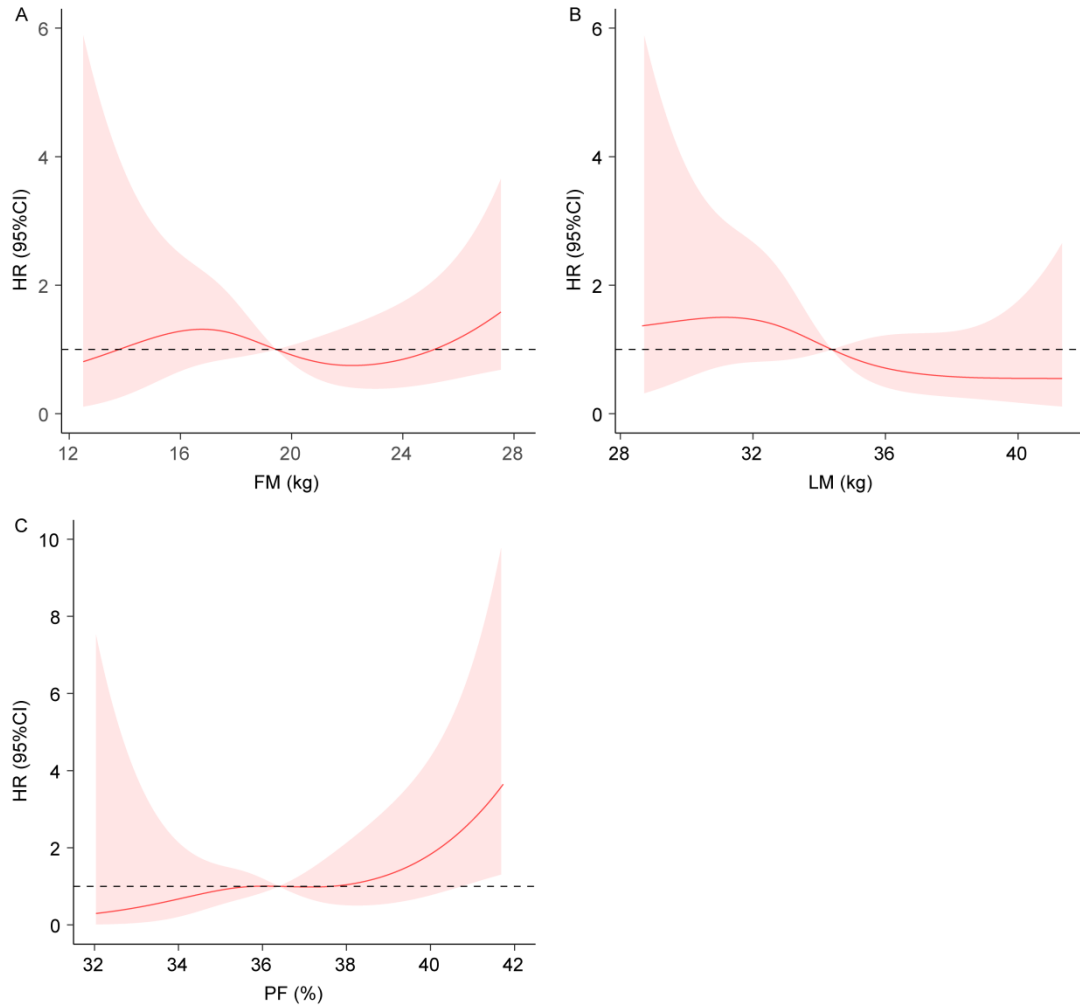


Table S1 Spearman correlations among different predicted body composition

| | WC | HC | WHR | BMI | FM | LM | PF |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Men | | | | | | | |
| WC | 1.00 | 0.77 | 0.80 | 0.79 | 0.98 | 0.52 | 0.97 |
| HC | | 1.00 | 0.28 | 0.76 | 0.82 | 0.71 | 0.69 |
| WHR | | | 1.00 | 0.51 | 0.72 | 0.15 | 0.84 |
| BMI | | | | 1.00 | 0.88 | 0.69 | 0.75 |
| FM | | | | | 1.00 | 0.66 | 0.92 |
| LM | | | | | | 1.00 | 0.35 |
| PF | | | | | | | 1.00 |
| Women | | | | | | | |
| WC | 1.00 | 0.83 | 0.74 | 0.76 | 0.83 | 0.62 | 0.84 |
| HC | | 1.00 | 0.28 | 0.79 | 0.87 | 0.74 | 0.78 |
| WHR | | | 1.00 | 0.39 | 0.42 | 0.29 | 0.53 |
| BMI | | | | 1.00 | 0.94 | 0.63 | 0.95 |
| FM | | | | | 1.00 | 0.83 | 0.89 |
| LM | | | | | | 1.00 | 0.51 |
| PF | | | | | | | 1.00 |

BMI, body mass index; FM, fat mass; HC, hip circumference; LM, lean mass; PF: percent fat; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio

All correlations were significant with $p < 0.05$.

Table S2 Univariate Cox regression analysis for DM

| Variable | Change | HR | 95% CI | p |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------|---------|
| Men | | | | |
| Age (years) | 1-SD increment | 1.05 | 0.996-1.10 | 0.072 |
| Smoking (%) | Yes vs no | 0.79 | 0.44-1.45 | 0.448 |
| Hypertension (%) | Yes vs no | 1.36 | 0.66-2.81 | 0.406 |
| DM family history (%) | Yes vs no | 0.44 | 0.14-1.40 | 0.163 |
| SBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.02 | 0.998-1.036 | 0.076 |
| DBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.02 | 0.998-1.052 | 0.234 |
| FPG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.78 | 1.26-2.52 | 0.001 |
| TC (mmol/l) | 1-SD increment | 1.15 | 0.79-1.66 | 0.476 |
| TG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.16 | 0.91-1.47 | 0.248 |
| HDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 0.57 | 1.16-2.00 | 0.376 |
| LDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.04 | 0.73-1.48 | 0.818 |
| Height (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.01 | 0.96-1.06 | 0.834 |
| Weight (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.07 | 1.04-1.11 | < 0.001 |
| BMI (kg/m ²) | 1-SD increment | 1.23 | 1.13-1.33 | < 0.001 |
| WC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.09 | 1.05-1.13 | < 0.001 |
| HC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.09 | 1.05-1.14 | < 0.001 |
| WHR | 0.01-SD increment | 1.09 | 1.04-1.15 | < 0.001 |
| FM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 1.16 | 1.09-1.22 | < 0.001 |
| LM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 1.10 | 1.04-1.17 | 0.002 |
| PF (%) | 1-SD increment | 1.23 | 1.13-1.34 | < 0.001 |
| Women | | | | |
| Age (years) | 1-SD increment | 1.04 | 0.98-1.11 | 0.161 |
| Smoking (%) | Yes vs no | 20.306 | - | 0.771 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|-------|------------|---------|
| 5 | Hypertension (%) | Yes vs no | 2.00 | 0.84-4.76 | 0.116 |
| 6 | DM family history (%) | Yes vs no | 0.57 | 0.17-1.88 | 0.353 |
| 7 | SBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.02 | 0.999-1.04 | 0.062 |
| 8 | DBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.03 | 0.99-1.07 | 0.111 |
| 9 | FPG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.86 | 1.14-3.03 | 0.013 |
| 10 | TC (mmol/l) | 1-SD increment | 1.67 | 1.12-2.50 | 0.012 |
| 11 | TG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.46 | 1.26-1.69 | < 0.001 |
| 12 | HDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 0.081 | 0.01-0.54 | 0.009 |
| 13 | LDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.05 | 0.67-1.65 | 0.824 |
| 14 | Height (cm) | 1-SD increment | 0.91 | 0.84-0.98 | 0.009 |
| 15 | Weight (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.04 | 0.986-1.09 | 0.156 |
| 16 | BMI (kg/m ²) | 1-SD increment | 1.27 | 1.10-1.46 | 0.001 |
| 17 | WC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.11 | 1.06-1.17 | < 0.001 |
| 18 | HC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.08 | 1.01-1.16 | 0.019 |
| 19 | WHR | 1-SD increment | 1.17 | 1.09-1.25 | < 0.001 |
| 20 | FM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 1.11 | 1.02-1.21 | 0.013 |
| 21 | LM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 0.99 | 0.89-1.12 | 0.912 |
| 22 | PF (%) | 1-SD increment | 1.38 | 1.19-1.60 | < 0.001 |

BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; FM, fat mass; HC, hip circumference; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LM, lean mass; SBP, systolic blood pressure; PF, percent fat; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio.

Table S3 Multivariate Cox regression analysis of commonly used obesity indicators for DM

| | Case (%) | Multivariate hazards regression * | |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| | | HR (95% CI) | p |
| For men | | | |
| BMI | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.27 (1.16-1.380) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 9 (6.87%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 10 (7.75%) | 1.09 (0.44-2.69) | 0.856 |
| T3 | 29 (20.86%) | 3.90 (1.81-8.37) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| WC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.10 (1.07-1.14) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 5 (4.03%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 17 (12.78%) | 3.24 (1.19-8.78) | 0.021 |
| T3 | 26 (18.31%) | 5.97 (2.27-15.71) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| HC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.11 (1.06-1.16) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 9 (7.03%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 11 (9.40%) | 1.19 (0.49-2.88) | 0.701 |
| T3 | 28 (18.18%) | 2.87 (1.35-6.08) | 0.006 |
| p for trend | | | 0.004 |
| WHR | | | |
| per 0.01-SD increase | | 1.09 (1.04-1.15) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 5 (3.82%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 18 (13.85%) | 3.65 (1.35-9.83) | 0.011 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------|
| T3 | 25 (18.12%) | 5.42 (2.07-14.18) | 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| Women | | | |
| BMI | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.19 (1.03-1.38) | 0.016 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (4.40%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 8 (8.33%) | 1.00 (0.38-2.61) | 0.838 |
| T3 | 14 (13.86%) | 1.00 (0.38-2.73) | 0.414 |
| p for trend | | | 0.512 |
| WC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.10 (1.04-1.16) | 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (4.26%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 4 (4.60%) | 0.81 (0.20-3.31) | 0.766 |
| T3 | 18 (16.82%) | 2.51 (0.81-7.73) | 0.110 |
| p for trend | | | 0.051 |
| HC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.00 (0.93-1.07) | 0.080 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (5.06%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 8 (8.33%) | 1.00 (0.37-2.73) | 0.827 |
| T3 | 14 (12.39%) | 1.00 (0.37-2.71) | 0.398 |
| p for trend | | | 0.648 |
| WHR | | | |
| per 0.01-SD increase | | 1.16 (1.07-1.25) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 1 (1.06%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 5 (5.21%) | 3.95 (0.468-34.15) | 0.212 |
| T3 | 20 (20.41%) | 13.48 (1.56-103.38) | 0.012 |

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|-------------|---------|
| p for trend | < 0.001 |
|-------------|---------|

*, adjusted for hypertension (yes/no), DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), TG, TC, HDL-C, LDL-C, and FPG; BMI, body mass index; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; HC, hip circumference; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HR, hazard ratio; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; SD, standard deviation; T, tertile; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio

For peer review only

STROBE 2007 (v4) Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of cohort studies

| Section/Topic | Item # | Recommendation | Reported on page # |
|------------------------------|--------|--|--------------------|
| Title and abstract | 1 | (a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract | 1, 2 |
| | | (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found | 2 |
| Introduction | | | |
| Background/rationale | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported | 4, 5 |
| Objectives | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses | 5 |
| Methods | | | |
| Study design | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paper | 5 |
| Setting | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection | 5 |
| Participants | 6 | (a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up | 5, 6 |
| | | (b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed | N/A |
| Variables | 7 | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable | 5, 6, 7, 8 |
| Data sources/ measurement | 8* | For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group | 6, 7 |
| Bias | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias | - |
| Study size | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived at | 5 |
| Quantitative variables | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why | 7, 8 |
| Statistical methods | 12 | (a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding | 7, 8 |
| | | (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions | - |
| | | (c) Explain how missing data were addressed | 5 |
| | | (d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed | - |
| | | (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses | - |
| Results | | | |

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|--------------------------|-----|--|--------|
| Participants | 13* | (a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed | 8, 9 |
| | | (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage | - |
| | | (c) Consider use of a flow diagram | - |
| Descriptive data | 14* | (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders | 8, 9 |
| | | (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest | - |
| | | (c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) | 9, 10 |
| Outcome data | 15* | Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time | 9, 10 |
| Main results | 16 | (a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included | 9, 10 |
| | | (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized | 9 |
| | | (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period | 9 |
| Other analyses | 17 | Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses | - |
| Discussion | | | |
| Key results | 18 | Summarise key results with reference to study objectives | 11, 12 |
| Limitations | | | |
| Interpretation | 20 | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence | 14 |
| Generalisability | 21 | Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results | 14 |
| Other information | | | |
| Funding | 22 | Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based | 15 |

*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at <http://www.annals.org/>, and Epidemiology at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.

BMJ Open

Association of predicted fat mass, predicted lean mass, and predicted percent fat with diabetes mellitus in Chinese: a 15-year prospective cohort

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4 **Association of predicted fat mass, predicted lean mass, and predicted percent fat**
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6 **with diabetes mellitus in Chinese: a 15-year prospective cohort**
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ABSTRACT

Objectives: With body mass index (BMI) failing to distinguish the mass of fat from lean, several novel predicted equations for predicted fat mass (FM), predicted lean mass (LM), and predicted percent fat (PF) were recently developed and validated. Our aim was to explore whether the three novel parameters could better predict diabetes mellitus (DM) than the commonly used obesity indicators, including BMI, waist circumference, hip circumference, and waist-hip ratio.

Design: A 15-year prospective cohort was used.

Setting: It was a prospective cohort, consisting of a general Chinese population from 1992 to 2007.

Participants: This cohort enrolled 711 people. People suffering from DM at baseline ($n = 24$) were excluded, and 687 non-diabetics with complete data were included to the analysis.

Primary outcome: New-onset DM.

Results: After the follow-up, 74 (48 men and 26 women) incidences of DM were documented. For men, the adjusted hazard ratios (HR) were 1, 5.19 ($p = 0.003$), and 7.67 ($p < 0.001$) across predicted PF tertiles; 1, 2.86 ($p = 0.029$), and 5.60 ($p < 0.001$) across predicted FM tertiles; 1, 1.21 ($p = 0.646$), and 2.27 ($p = 0.025$) across predicted LM tertiles. Predicted FM performed better than other commonly used obesity indicators in discrimination with the highest Harrell's C-statistic among all the body composition parameters. Whereas, for women, none of the three novel parameters was the independent predictor.

Conclusion: Predicted PF, predicted LM, and predicted FM could independently predict the risk of DM for men, with predicted FM performing better in discrimination than other commonly used obesity indicators. For women, larger samples were further needed.

Key words: BMI, diabetes, fat mass, lean mass, obesity, percent fat

Strengths and limitations of this study

1. This study explored whether the three novel body composition parameters, including predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF, could predict DM better than BMI and other commonly used obesity indicators.
2. Cox's regression analysis was used to estimate HRs for DM, and Harrell's C-statistic was used to assess and compare the discriminatory ability of all the parameters in predicting new-onset DM.
3. The relatively small sample size might possibly lead to a statistical power decrease.

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a collection of chronic metabolic conditions, characterized by elevated blood glucose levels resulting from the body's inability to produce insulin or resistance to insulin action, or both¹. There are two primary forms of DM, insulin-dependent DM (type 1 diabetes mellitus, T1DM) and non-insulin-dependent DM (type 2 diabetes mellitus, T2DM). T2DM is the most common form, making up 90% - 95% of all diabetic patients¹. DM and its complications can result in disability and premature death², as well as enormous economic and social burdens³. There is no cure for DM, thus, prevention is the best intervention.

Among the well-known modifiable risk factors, obesity, defined as an excess accumulation of body fat, is regarded as a major risk factor⁴. Body mass index (BMI) has been mostly used as a simple and reasonable measure of general adiposity in clinical and public health settings. However, since it is defined as the result of weight in kilogram divided by height in meter squared, BMI is in poor discrimination of metabolically distinct components such as fat mass (FM) and lean mass (LM)⁵. Direct measurement of FM and LM is impractical in large epidemiological studies for sophisticated and expensive technologies such as dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) or imaging techniques (i.e. MRI and computerized tomography).

Recently, Lee et al developed anthropometric prediction equations for FM, LM, and percent fat (PF) from the large population samples of the noninstitutionalized civilians in the USA from National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey⁶. In the original study, the validation tests showed robust and consistent results without evident substantial bias, and comparable abilities to predict obesity-related biomarkers with direct DXA measurements. Later, based on two large US prospective cohorts, predicted FM and predicted PF were both estimated to have a stronger association than BMI with

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4 T2DM⁷. However, body compositions differ across ethnic groups^{8,9}. Healthy Chinese and South Asian
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6 individuals were measured to have a greater amount of visceral adipose tissue than Europeans with the
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8 same BMI or waist circumference¹⁰. Therefore, we aimed to evaluate if these equations could better
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10 predict the risk of DM in comparison with BMI and other obesity indicators, including waist
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12 circumference (WC), hip circumference (HC), and waist-hip ratio (WHR), in a 15-year prospective
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14 cohort consisting of Chinese people.
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22 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

23 **Study population**

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27 In 2007, supported by the Mega-projects of Science Research for China's 11th five-year plan
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29 (Trends in the incidence of metabolic syndrome and integrated control in China), a group of 711
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31 people, from an urban community situated in Chengdu, China, underwent a health examination. They
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33 also had a health examination in 1992 as part of the Chinese Multi-provincial Cohort Study approved
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35 by Beijing Institute of Heart, Lung, and Blood Vessel Disease that investigated cardiovascular risk
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37 factors across the country. Therefore, we picked up the data, and more details have been described
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39 elsewhere^{11, 12}. People suffering from DM at baseline (n = 24) were excluded. No one had missing data.
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45 Finally, the remaining 687 people with complete data were included in the analysis. All of them
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47 provided written informed consent. The study was approved by the Ministry of Health of China, as
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49 well as the Ethics Committee of West China Hospital of Sichuan University.
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53 **Evaluation**

54 **Definition**

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58 DM was defined by self-reported history or fasting plasma glucose (FPG) ≥ 7.0 mmol/L¹³.
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Hypertension was a conventional blood pressure of ≥ 140 mm Hg systolic, ≥ 90 mm Hg diastolic, or the use of antihypertensive drugs. DM family history was determined with a diagnosis of DM in the first-grade relatives. Smoking was defined as an average cigarette consumption of at least one per day.

Frequent previous alcohol intake and present alcohol intake were both defined as alcohol consumption.

Activity was defined as at least twice 20-minute moderately intensive physical activity per week.

Data collection

Baseline data in 1992 included medical history, physical examination, and biochemical tests.

Questionnaires containing demographic information and cardiovascular disease risk factors were collected by well-trained investigators. WC was measured at the midpoint between the lower border of the rib cage and the iliac crest at the end of a normal exhalation. HC was measured at the maximum protrusion of the gluteal region. WHR was calculated by WC in cm divided by HC in cm. Height was measured without shoes. Weight was measured in light clothing. Blood pressure was measured in a sitting position after at least 15 min of rest, and the mean blood pressure of three measurements taken by a standardized mercury sphygmomanometer was used as a participant's blood pressure. Blood samples were drawn from participants in the morning after 12-h overnight fasting. FPG, total cholesterol (TC), and triglyceride (TG) levels were determined in an enzymatic method, and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) was measured by the phosphotungstic acid/MgCl₂ precipitation method. Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) was measured using a standard kit.

Equation profiles

Equations for predicted FM (kg)⁶

For men = $-18.592 - 0.009 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.080 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.226 \times \text{weight (kg)}$
 $+ 0.387 \times \text{WC (cm)} + 0.080 \times \text{Mexican} - 0.188 \times \text{Hispanic} - 0.483 \times \text{Black} + 1.050 \times$

other ethnicity

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For women} &= 11.817 + 0.041 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.199 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.610 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &+ 0.044 \times \text{WC (cm)} \\ &+ 0.388 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.073 \times \text{Hispanic} - 1.187 \times \text{Black} + 0.325 \times \text{other ethnicity} \end{aligned}$$

Equations for predicted LM (kg)⁶

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For men} &= 19.363 + 0.001 \times \text{age (year)} + 0.064 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.756 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &- 0.366 \times \text{WC (cm)} \\ &- 0.066 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.231 \times \text{Hispanic} + 0.432 \times \text{Black} - 1.007 \times \text{other ethnicity} \\ \text{For women} &= -10.683 - 0.039 \times \text{age (years)} + 0.186 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.383 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &- 0.043 \times \text{WC (cm)} \\ &- 0.359 \times \text{Mexican} - 0.059 \times \text{Hispanic} + 1.085 \times \text{Black} - 0.34 \times \text{other ethnicity} \end{aligned}$$

Equations for predicted PF (%)⁶

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For men} &= 0.02 + 0.00 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.07 \times \text{height (cm)} - 0.08 \times \text{weight (kg)} + 0.48 \times \text{WC} \\ &(\text{cm}) + 0.32 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.02 \times \text{Hispanic} - 0.65 \times \text{Black} + 1.12 \times \text{other ethnicity} \\ \text{For women} &= 50.46 + 0.07 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.26 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.27 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &+ 0.10 \times \text{WC (cm)} + 0.89 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.49 \times \text{Hispanic} - 1.57 \times \text{Black} + 0.43 \times \text{other ethnicity} \end{aligned}$$

Statistical analyses

For descriptive results, variables were expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation (SD), median and interquartile range, or counts and percentages as appropriate. Smoking, alcohol intake, activity, hypertension, and family history of DM were expressed as dummy variables (presence= 1, absence= 0). Differences in baseline characteristics between participants with and without new-onset DM were tested by independent t-test for normally distributed variables and by the non-parametric Mann-

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4 Whitney U-test for skewed variables. Interactions between categorical variables were evaluated with
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6 the Pearson χ^2 test, Fisher's exact probabilities were used if necessary. Correlations between different
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8 variables were determined using Pearson's or Spearman's analysis.
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11 We treated all the parameters as sex-specific tertiles. The cumulative incidences of DM across
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13 tertiles were graphically displayed according to the method of Kaplan-Meier, with comparisons among
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15 groups by the log-rank test. Cox proportional hazards regression models were used to assess the impact
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17 of the variables on the incidence rate of DM. Furthermore, restricted cubic spline analysis was used to
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19 visualize the relations between variables and incident DM. To quantify and compare the discriminative
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21 ability of different parameters, Harrell's c-index was calculated. A generally accepted approach
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23 suggests that the C-index of less than 0.60 reflects poor discrimination; 0.60 to 0.75, possibly helpful
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25 discrimination; and more than 0.75, clearly useful discrimination¹⁴.
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32 All statistical tests were 2-sided, and p value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.
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34 Statistical analyses were performed using R version 3.6.3.
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40 **RESULTS**

41 **Baseline characteristics**

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43 After excluding people suffering from DM at baseline (n = 24), the remaining 687 (399 men and
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45 288 women) people free of DM at baseline with complete data were included in the analysis.
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50 Those who had subsequent DM were associated with higher baseline levels of FPG, weight, BMI,
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52 WC, HC, predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF for the males; associated with higher baseline
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54 levels of TC, TG, height, BMI, WC, HC, predicted FM, and predicted PF, and lower baseline level of
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56 HDL-C for the females. At baseline, age was not of significance between the two groups both in men
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4 and women, but there was still a trend that people suffering incident DM were older. Other details of
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6 baseline information are shown in Table 1.
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9 As Online Supplemental Table S1 shows, predicted FM was strongly correlated with WC ($r_s =$
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11 0.98), followed by BMI ($r_s = 0.88$) and HC ($r_s = 0.82$) in men; strongly correlated with BMI ($r_s = 0.94$),
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13 followed by HC ($r_s = 0.87$) and WC ($r_s = 0.83$) in women. Predicted LM had a strong correlation with
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15 predicted FM ($r_s = 0.83$) in women and a relatively strong correlation with HC ($r_s = 0.71$) in men, but
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17 relatively weakly with WHR both in men ($r_s = 0.15$) and women ($r_s = 0.29$). Predicted PF was strongly
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19 correlated with WC ($r_s = 0.97$) in men and BMI ($r_s = 0.95$) in women, but relatively weakly with
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21 predicted LM both in men ($r_s = 0.35$) and women ($r_s = 0.51$).
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26 27 **Survival analysis**

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29 All the body composition parameters were divided into tertiles. Tertile 1 had the lowest estimated
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31 values while Tertile 3 had the highest. After the follow-up, 74 (48 men and 26 women) incidences of
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33 DM were documented (incidence rate: 0.74 per 100 person-years; 95% CI: 0.57-0.91). As Figure 1A-C
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35 present, for men, the cumulative incidences of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis were
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37 significantly different across the tertiles of predicted FM (log-rank $p = 0.001$), predicted LM (log-rank
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39 $p = 0.030$), and predicted PF (log-rank $p < 0.001$), and people in Tertile 3 had the highest cumulative
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41 incidence of DM. For women, however, only predicted PF (log-rank $p = 0.028$) could help to
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43 distinguish the cumulative incidence across the tertiles (Figure 1D).
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50 For other obesity indicators, the cumulative incidences of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis
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52 were significantly different across the tertiles of BMI (log-rank $p < 0.001$), WC (log-rank $p = 0.001$),
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54 HC (log-rank $p = 0.006$), and WHR (log-rank $p = 0.001$) in men; WC (log-rank $p = 0.002$) and WHR
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56 (log-rank $p < 0.001$) in women.
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Relation to risk of DM

Univariate cox regression analysis is shown in Online Supplemental Table S2. Predicted FM, predicted PF, BMI, WC, HC, and WHR were risk factors of DM both for men and women, and predicted LM was a risk factor for men only. Variables showing statistical significance in univariate analysis or clinical relevance ($p < 0.1$) were entered into multivariate analysis.

In multivariate analysis, we adjusted potential confounders including hypertension (yes/no), DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), TG, TC, HDL-C, LDL-C, and FPG in men; hypertension (yes/no), DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), SBP, TG, TC, HDL-C, and FPG in women.

As Table 2 shows, in men, predicted FM ($p < 0.001$), predicted LM ($p = 0.043$), and predicted PF ($p < 0.001$) were all the significantly independent predictors with the top tertiles associated with the highest risk of DM. Compared with the other parameters we studied, predicted PF in higher level was more strongly associated with increased risk of DM, since it showed a positive association with the risk of DM with the adjusted hazard ratio (HR) for Tertile 2 and Tertile 3 estimated as 5.19 [95% confidence interval (CI): 1.77-15.20, $p = 0.003$] and 7.67 (95% CI: 2.64-22.35, $p < 0.001$), respectively. There was a positive association between predicted FM and the risk of DM (HR: 2.86, 95% CI: 1.12-7.33, $p = 0.029$ for Tertile 2; HR: 5.60, 95% CI: 2.27-13.80, $p < 0.001$ for Tertile 3, respectively) as well. Other commonly used parameters such as BMI ($p < 0.001$), WC ($p < 0.001$), HC ($p = 0.004$) and WHR ($p < 0.001$) were also significant predictors (Online Supplemental Table S3), and WC and WHR showed a positive association across tertiles.

As for the women, however, none of the three novel parameters was significantly independent after adjustment (Table 2), as well as other commonly used obesity indicators but WHR, which ($p <$

0.001) remained stable and significant (Online Supplemental Table S3).

Furthermore, as Table 2 shows, we treated the predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF as continuous variables. In men, all of them were independent risk factors and it is true of the restricted cubic splines used to flexibly models and visualize the relations with risk of DM (Online Supplemental Figure S1). With the medians as reference points, all the three novel parameters showed an overall positive association with DM in men (Online Supplemental Figure S1); while in women, only predicted PF was independently associated with DM (Table 2, HR: 1.34 per 1-SD increase, 95% CI: 1.15-1.57, $p < 0.001$), and the restricted cubic spline shows the similar relationship, especially after the median (Online Supplemental Figure S2)

Discrimination

Table 3 shows discriminative abilities evaluated by Harrell's c-index of different body composition parameters. In the male group, predicted FM had the highest Harrell's c-index of 0.679 (95% CI: 0.606-0.752), and predicted LM had the lowest Harrell's c-index of 0.619 (95% CI: 0.537-0.701). All of the parameters we studied could provide possibly helpful discriminative information in the prediction of DM¹⁴.

In the female group, since WHR was the only significantly independent risk factor of DM both as continuous variable and categorical variable, we just estimated Harrell's c-index of WHR (0.768, 95% CI: 0.697-0.839), and it showed a clearly useful discriminative ability in predicting DM¹⁴.

DISCUSSION

In this study, we investigated the predictive abilities for the risk of DM of three novel body composition parameters including predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF, and compared them

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4 with other obesity indicators, in a Chinese prospective population during 15 years of follow-up. For
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6 men, our results showed predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF could independently predict the
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8 new onset of DM; in all the parameters we studied, predicted FM had the best discriminative ability,
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10 providing possibly helpful information in the prediction of DM. For women, none of the three novel
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12 parameters could be significantly independent in multivariate analysis; of all the parameters we
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14 estimated, WHR was the only independent predictor, with Harrell's c-index of 0.768, which suggested
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16 a clearly useful discrimination.
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22 To our knowledge, this was the first study in a Chinese prospective cohort to evaluate the
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24 associations of three novel body composition parameters with the incidence of DM. BMI has been
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26 preferred as a measure indicating overall obesity for a long time to identify people at increased risk of
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28 DM¹⁵. However, BMI was not thought as a good indicator of obesity recently.^{5, 16} It fails to distinguish
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30 the mass of fat from lean, and had no gender distinction as well. For example, in common sense,
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32 athletes or someone liking exercise always had heavier weight for the mass of lean, they have greater
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34 BMI but they are not obese. Besides, aging is associated with an accumulation of visceral fat and a
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36 progressive loss of muscle mass¹⁶. With the same BMI, an old man has more mass of fat with less mass
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38 of muscle than a younger man.
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45 Recently, Lee et al. ⁶ developed equations predicting FM, LM, and PF in order to better reflect
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47 body composition. The predicted equations had a simple calculation and just require the information of
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49 gender, age, height, weight, WC, and ethnicity, which are easily measurable and accessible in clinical
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51 settings or even at home. Lee et al. later investigated the association between predicted FM and risk of
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53 DM in two large prospective cohorts of US men and women⁷. They found predicted FM, as well as
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55 predicted PF, had a stronger association with DM than BMI both in men and women. Similarly, in our
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4 study consisting of Chinese population, in the male group, both predicted FM and predicted PF could
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6 independently predict incident DM and predicted FM had the highest Harrell's value. Higher predicted
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9 PF was more strongly associated with increased risk of DM than other parameters.
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12 Besides in prediction of DM, predicted FM and predicted PF were also explored in the association
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14 with risk of heart failure and myocardial infarction in adults with T2DM¹⁷. The results showed a
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16 decline in predicted FM but not predicted LM, over 1 year was significantly associated with lower risk
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18 of overall heart failure (adjusted HR per 10% decrease in predicted FM: 0.80; 95% CI: 0.68-0.95);
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20 decline in predicted FM was significantly associated with lower risk of both heart failure subtypes
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22 (with preserved or reduced ejection fraction).
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27 In a post hoc analysis of data from the Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes
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29 (ACCORD) study¹⁸, researchers modified the two parameters, fat mass index and lean BMI, calculated
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31 by predicted FM and predicted LM, respectively, in kilograms divided by the square of height in
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33 meters. They found that in patients with T2DM, fat mass index had a strong positive association with a
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35 higher risk of a major adverse cardiovascular event, while predicted lean BMI was not associated with
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37 major cardiovascular events (p = 0.34).
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43 In a large prospective US cohort study of men¹⁹, there was a strong positive association between
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45 predicted FM and mortality from all causes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. Compared with those
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47 in the lowest fifth of predicted FM, men in the highest fifth had an HR of 1.35 (95% CI: 1.26-1.46) for
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49 all-cause mortality. In contrast, predicted LM showed a U-shaped association with all-cause mortality
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51 that men in the second to fourth fifths had 8-10% lower risk. The U-shaped associations were also
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53 found with deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer. However, there was a strong inverse
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55 association between predicted LM and mortality from respiratory disease.
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4 Lean body mass accounts for most of the human body mass, and it is essential not only in the
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6 stress response but also in metabolism²⁰. Muscle loss may have negative effects²⁰⁻²². Son et al.
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9 previously conducted a 2-yearly prospective assessment in middle-aged and older Korean adults, and
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11 reported that low muscle mass was associated with an increased risk of T2DM, independent of general
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13 obesity²³. In contrast, in our research, for the development of DM, the protective role of predicted LM
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15 could not be concluded. Instead, the top tertile of predicted LM had an increased risk in the male group.
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18 Since there is a lack of randomized clinical trial studies that directly assess the role of increased muscle
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20 mass in the prevention of new on-set DM²⁴, the association between predicted LM and risk of DM
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22 needs further explorations. After all, increased LM was not always simply reported as the protective
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24 factor of diseases or mortality¹⁷⁻¹⁹.
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30 There are certainly some limitations in our study. Firstly, 687 was a relatively small sample size,
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32 possibly leading to a statistical power decrease, for example, the results in women. Nevertheless, we
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34 still observed that as a continuous variable, predicted PF could independently predict the risk of
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36 incident DM in women. Maybe in a larger population, the relationships and comparisons would be
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38 more accurate. Secondly, due to the absence of oral glucose tolerance tests (OGTT) and hemoglobin
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40 A1c (HbA1c) data in our study, some people might not be adequately diagnosed. Thirdly, only one
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42 follow-up examination was carried out, so that there was no guarantee whether some “interval
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44 censoring” might have occurred.
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50 In conclusion, in the general Chinese population, predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF
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52 could independently predict the risk of DM in men, and predicted FM performed better in
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54 discrimination than other commonly used obesity indicators including BMI, WC, HC, and WHR. For
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56 women, however, predicted FM, predicted LM, predicted PF, as well as other obesity indicators, but
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4 WHR, could not remain stable and independent in multivariate analysis, which might be attributed to
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6 the relatively small sample size with the corresponding few endpoints. Therefore, larger samples from
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8 different races are needed to explore the predictive abilities of the three novel equations reflecting body
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10 composition on incident DM and other diseases.
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For peer review only

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Competing interests

None declared.

Contributors

LL and SSJ: Participated in the conception and design of the study, performed the data collection and the statistical analysis, and wrote the draft of the manuscript. BC: Participated in the conception and design of the study, performed the statistical analysis, and wrote the major revision. SH and XPC: The corresponding authors, participated in the design of the study, performed the statistical analysis, and revised subsequent drafts. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Data availability statement

The data sets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Ethical approval statement

This study involved human patients and was approved by Ministry of Health of China and Ethics Committee of West China Hospital of Sichuan University.

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Table 1 Basic characteristics of people with or without subsequent DM.

| Variables | Men (n=399) | | | Women (n=288) | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| | Subsequent DM (n=48) | Subsequent non-DM (n=351) | p-value | Subsequent DM (n=26) | Subsequent non-DM (n=262) | p-value |
| Age (years) | 50.6 ± 5.0 | 49.0 (45.0-53.0) | 0.079 | 48.4 ± 6.8 | 46.0 (42.0-52.0) | 0.127 |
| Smoking (%) | 32 (66.7%) | 213 (60.7%) | 0.425 | 0 | 2 (0.8%) | 1.000 |
| Hypertension (%) | 9 (18.8%) | 50 (14.2%) | 0.410 | 7 (26.9%) | 38 (14.5%) | 0.150 |
| DM family history (%) | 3 (6.3%) | 9 (2.6%) | 0.165 | 3 (11.5%) | 18 (6.9%) | 0.418 |
| SBP (mm Hg) | 118.1 ± 14.5 | 110.0 (105.0-120.0) | 0.061 | 119.0 (103.0-132.5) | 110.0 (102.0-120.0) | 0.240 |
| DBP (mm Hg) | 74.0 (70.0-80.0) | 72.0 (70.0-80.0) | 0.292 | 76.4 ± 12.1 | 70.0 (71.0-80.0) | 0.226 |
| FPG (mmol/L) | 4.6 ± 0.8 | 4.0 (3.8-4.7) | <0.001 | 4.6 ± 0.9 | 3.8 (4.0-4.7) | 0.052 |
| TC (mmol/l) | 4.4 (4.1-4.8) | 4.3 (3.9-4.8) | 0.419 | 5.0 ± 0.7 | 4.4 (3.9-5.0) | 0.006 |
| TG (mmol/L) | 1.9 (1.7-3.0) | 1.9 (1.5-2.4) | 0.104 | 1.9 (1.5-2.3) | 1.8 (1.4-2.2) | <0.001 |
| HDL-C (mmol/L) | 1.2 (1.0-1.4) | 1.2 (1.1-1.4) | 0.193 | 1.2 ± 0.2 | 1.3 (1.1-1.5) | 0.009 |
| LDL-C (mmol/L) | 2.2 ± 0.8 | 2.1 (1.7-2.7) | 0.556 | 2.4 ± 1.0 | 2.3 (1.8-2.8) | 0.460 |
| Height (cm) | 165.4 ± 5.9 | 165.3 ± 5.6 | 0.898 | 151.9 ± 4.4 | 151.0 (155.0-159.0) | 0.006 |
| Weight (cm) | 68.5 (61.3-74.8) | 62.9 ± 8.2 | <0.001 | 58.6 ± 9.0 | 56.4 ± 7.5 | 0.168 |
| BMI (kg/m ²) | 24.8 (23.0-26.6) | 23.0 (20.9-24.8) | <0.001 | 25.3 ± 3.3 | 23.4 ± 2.6 | 0.001 |
| WC (cm) | 83.6 ± 8.2 | 78.0 (72.0-83.0) | <0.001 | 79.9 ± 7.6 | 73.5 ± 7.1 | <0.001 |
| HC (cm) | 95.0 (90.0-97.0) | 91.0 (87.0-95.0) | <0.001 | 95.4 ± 7.4 | 92.6 ± 5.8 | 0.021 |
| WHR | 0.89 ± 0.05 | 0.85 ± 0.06 | 0.001 | 0.84 ± 0.04 | 0.79 ± 0.05 | <0.001 |
| FM (kg) | 16.4 ± 5.2 | 13.3 (9.6-16.2) | <0.001 | 21.8 ± 5.4 | 19.6 ± 4.3 | 0.014 |
| LM (kg) | 50.2 ± 5.0 | 48.1 ± 4.5 | 0.004 | 34.3 ± 3.5 | 34.4 ± 3.4 | 0.894 |
| PF (%) | 24.0 ± 3.4 | 21.8 ± 3.1 | <0.001 | 38.6 ± 2.9 | 36.4 ± 2.4 | <0.001 |

BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; FM, fat mass; HC, hip circumference; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LM, lean mass; SBP, systolic blood pressure; PF, percent fat; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio.

Table 2 Multivariate Cox regression models for DM

| | Case (%) | Multivariate hazards regression * | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| | | HR (95% CI) | p |
| For men | | | |
| FM | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.18 (1.11-1.25) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 6 (4.54%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 16 (12.21%) | 2.86 (1.12-7.33) | 0.029 |
| T3 | 26 (19.12%) | 5.60 (2.27-13.80) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| LM | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.10 (1.03-1.17) | 0.003 |
| T1 (reference) | 11 (8.33%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 13 (9.92%) | 1.21 (0.54-2.70) | 0.646 |
| T3 | 24 (17.65%) | 2.27 (1.11-4.63) | 0.025 |
| p for trend | | | 0.043 |
| PF | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.25 (1.14-1.36) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (3.03%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 20 (15.27%) | 5.19 (1.77-15.20) | 0.003 |
| T3 | 24 (17.65%) | 7.67 (2.64-22.35) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| Women | | | |
| FM | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.04 (0.95-1.15) | 0.375 |
| T1 (reference) | 5 (5.26%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 9 (9.47%) | 1.38 (0.45-4.23) | 0.571 |
| T3 | 12 (12.24%) | 1.08 (0.35-3.37) | 0.900 |

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| | p for trend | | | 0.811 |
| LM | | | | |
| | per 1-SD increase | | 0.92 (0.81-1.05) | 0.205 |
| | T1 (reference) | 6 (6.28%) | 1 | - |
| | T2 | 13 (13.54%) | 1.33 (0.49-3.61) | 0.576 |
| | T3 | 7 (7.14%) | 0.62 (0.19-2.05) | 0.432 |
| | p for trend | | | 0.332 |
| PF | | | | |
| | per 1-SD increase | | 1.34 (1.15-1.57) | < 0.001 |
| | T1 (reference) | 3 (3.16%) | 1 | - |
| | T2 | 9 (9.47%) | 1.95 (0.49-7.66) | 0.341 |
| | T3 | 14 (14.29%) | 2.39 (0.63-9.10) | 0.202 |
| | p for trend | | | 0.442 |

*, adjusted for hypertension (yes/no), DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), TG, HDL-C, LDL-C, and FPG in men; DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), SBP, TG, TC, HDL-C, and FPG in women; CI: Confidence interval; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; FM, fat mass; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HR, hazard ratio; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LM, lean mass; PF, percent fat; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SD, standard deviation; T, tertile; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride

Table 3 Discriminative abilities evaluated by Harrell's c-index of different body composition parameters

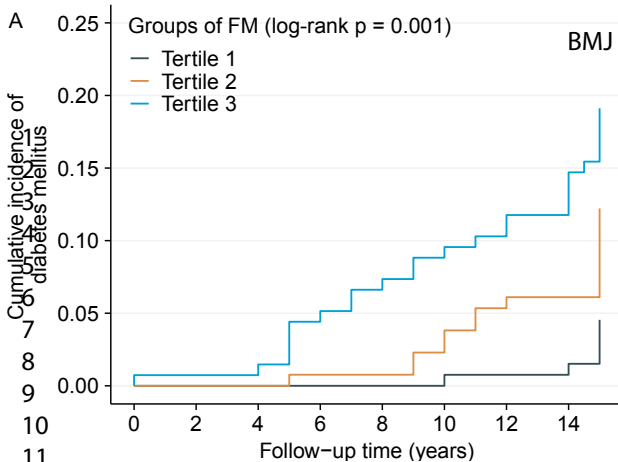
| Variables | Men | | Women | |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | Harrell's c-index | 95% CI | Harrell's c-index | 95% CI |
| FM | 0.679 | 0.606-0.752 | - | - |
| LM | 0.619 | 0.537-0.701 | - | - |
| PF | 0.670 | 0.598-0.742 | - | - |
| BMI | 0.675 | 0.599-0.751 | - | - |
| WC | 0.673 | 0.600-0.746 | - | - |
| WHR | 0.652 | 0.578-0.726 | 0.768 | 0.697-0.839 |
| HC | 0.636 | 0.560-0.712 | - | - |

CI: Confidence interval; FM, fat mass; LM, lean mass; PF, percent fat; BMI, body mass index; HC, hip circumference; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio

Figure legends

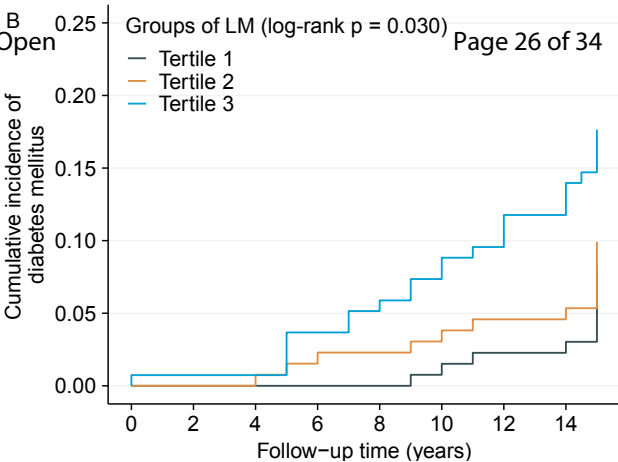
Figure 1 Cumulative incidence of DM across tertiles of three novel predicted body composition during follow-up.

Survival curves were presented as Kaplan-Meier curves, and the log-rank tests were used for comparison among tertiles. For men (n = 399), the cumulative incidences of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis were significantly different across the tertiles of predicted FM (A, log-rank p = 0.001), predicted LM (B, log-rank p = 0.030), and predicted PF (C, log-rank p < 0.001). For women (n = 288), the cumulative incidence of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis was just significantly different across the tertiles of predicted PF (D, log-rank p = 0.028). People in the top tertile had the highest cumulative incidence of DM. DM = diabetes mellitus



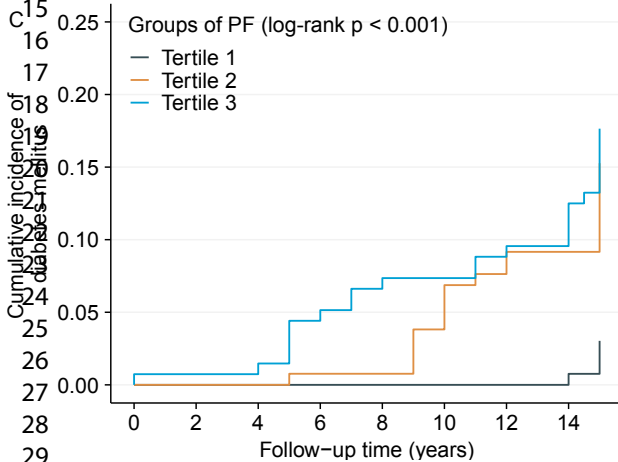
No. at risk

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tertile 1 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 131 | 131 |
| Tertile 2 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 130 | 130 | 128 | 124 |
| Tertile 3 | 136 | 135 | 135 | 130 | 127 | 124 | 120 |



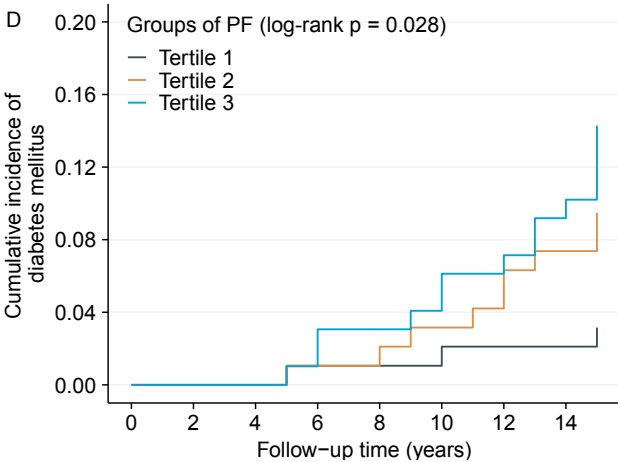
No. at risk

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|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tertile 1 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 131 | 129 | 129 |
| Tertile 2 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 129 | 128 | 127 | 125 | 125 |
| Tertile 3 | 136 | 135 | 135 | 131 | 129 | 126 | 123 | 120 |



No. at risk

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tertile 1 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 |
| Tertile 2 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 130 | 130 | 126 | 119 |
| Tertile 3 | 136 | 135 | 135 | 130 | 127 | 126 | 123 |



No. at risk

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Tertile 1 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 94 | 94 | 94 | 93 | 93 |
| Tertile 2 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 94 | 94 | 92 | 91 | 88 |
| Tertile 3 | 98 | 98 | 98 | 97 | 95 | 94 | 92 | 89 |

Supplemental Materials

Table S1: Spearman correlations among different predicted body composition

Table S2: Univariate Cox regression analysis for DM

Figure S1: Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for men

Figure S2: Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for women

Table S3: Multivariate Cox regression analysis of commonly used obesity indicators for DM

Table S1 Spearman correlations among different predicted body composition

| | WC | HC | WHR | BMI | FM | LM | PF |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Men | | | | | | | |
| WC | 1.00 | 0.77 | 0.80 | 0.79 | 0.98 | 0.52 | 0.97 |
| HC | | 1.00 | 0.28 | 0.76 | 0.82 | 0.71 | 0.69 |
| WHR | | | 1.00 | 0.51 | 0.72 | 0.15 | 0.84 |
| BMI | | | | 1.00 | 0.88 | 0.69 | 0.75 |
| FM | | | | | 1.00 | 0.66 | 0.92 |
| LM | | | | | | 1.00 | 0.35 |
| PF | | | | | | | 1.00 |
| Women | | | | | | | |
| WC | 1.00 | 0.83 | 0.74 | 0.76 | 0.83 | 0.62 | 0.84 |
| HC | | 1.00 | 0.28 | 0.79 | 0.87 | 0.74 | 0.78 |
| WHR | | | 1.00 | 0.39 | 0.42 | 0.29 | 0.53 |
| BMI | | | | 1.00 | 0.94 | 0.63 | 0.95 |
| FM | | | | | 1.00 | 0.83 | 0.89 |
| LM | | | | | | 1.00 | 0.51 |
| PF | | | | | | | 1.00 |

BMI, body mass index; FM, fat mass; HC, hip circumference; LM, lean mass; PF: percent fat; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio

All correlations were significant with $p < 0.05$.

Table S2 Univariate Cox regression analysis for DM

| Variable | Change | HR | 95% CI | p |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------|---------|
| Men | | | | |
| Age (years) | 1-SD increment | 1.05 | 0.996-1.10 | 0.072 |
| Smoking (%) | Yes vs no | 0.79 | 0.44-1.45 | 0.448 |
| Hypertension (%) | Yes vs no | 1.36 | 0.66-2.81 | 0.406 |
| DM family history (%) | Yes vs no | 0.44 | 0.14-1.40 | 0.163 |
| SBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.02 | 0.998-1.036 | 0.076 |
| DBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.02 | 0.998-1.052 | 0.234 |
| FPG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.78 | 1.26-2.52 | 0.001 |
| TC (mmol/l) | 1-SD increment | 1.15 | 0.79-1.66 | 0.476 |
| TG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.16 | 0.91-1.47 | 0.248 |
| HDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 0.57 | 1.16-2.00 | 0.376 |
| LDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.04 | 0.73-1.48 | 0.818 |
| Height (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.01 | 0.96-1.06 | 0.834 |
| Weight (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.07 | 1.04-1.11 | < 0.001 |
| BMI (kg/m ²) | 1-SD increment | 1.23 | 1.13-1.33 | < 0.001 |
| WC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.09 | 1.05-1.13 | < 0.001 |
| HC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.09 | 1.05-1.14 | < 0.001 |
| WHR | 0.01-SD increment | 1.09 | 1.04-1.15 | < 0.001 |
| FM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 1.16 | 1.09-1.22 | < 0.001 |
| LM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 1.10 | 1.04-1.17 | 0.002 |
| PF (%) | 1-SD increment | 1.23 | 1.13-1.34 | < 0.001 |
| Women | | | | |
| Age (years) | 1-SD increment | 1.04 | 0.98-1.11 | 0.161 |
| Smoking (%) | Yes vs no | 20.306 | - | 0.771 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------|-------|------------|---------|
| 5 | Hypertension (%) | Yes vs no | 2.00 | 0.84-4.76 | 0.116 |
| 6 | DM family history (%) | Yes vs no | 0.57 | 0.17-1.88 | 0.353 |
| 7 | SBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.02 | 0.999-1.04 | 0.062 |
| 8 | DBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.03 | 0.99-1.07 | 0.111 |
| 9 | FPG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.86 | 1.14-3.03 | 0.013 |
| 10 | TC (mmol/l) | 1-SD increment | 1.67 | 1.12-2.50 | 0.012 |
| 11 | TG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.46 | 1.26-1.69 | < 0.001 |
| 12 | HDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 0.081 | 0.01-0.54 | 0.009 |
| 13 | LDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.05 | 0.67-1.65 | 0.824 |
| 14 | Height (cm) | 1-SD increment | 0.91 | 0.84-0.98 | 0.009 |
| 15 | Weight (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.04 | 0.986-1.09 | 0.156 |
| 16 | BMI (kg/m ²) | 1-SD increment | 1.27 | 1.10-1.46 | 0.001 |
| 17 | WC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.11 | 1.06-1.17 | < 0.001 |
| 18 | HC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.08 | 1.01-1.16 | 0.019 |
| 19 | WHR | 0.01-SD increment | 1.17 | 1.09-1.25 | < 0.001 |
| 20 | FM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 1.11 | 1.02-1.21 | 0.013 |
| 21 | LM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 0.99 | 0.89-1.12 | 0.912 |
| 22 | PF (%) | 1-SD increment | 1.38 | 1.19-1.60 | < 0.001 |

BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; FM, fat mass; HC, hip circumference; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LM, lean mass; SBP, systolic blood pressure; PF, percent fat; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio.

Figure S1 Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for men

Restricted cubic splines were used to flexibly model and visualize the relations of different parameters with risk of DM. Hazard ratios are indicated by solid lines and 95% CIs by shaded areas. Reference points were the medians for FM (A; 13.61 kg), LM (B; 48.27 kg), and PF (C; 22.04%), respectively. The dotted line represents HR = 1. Confounders in Table 2 were adjusted.

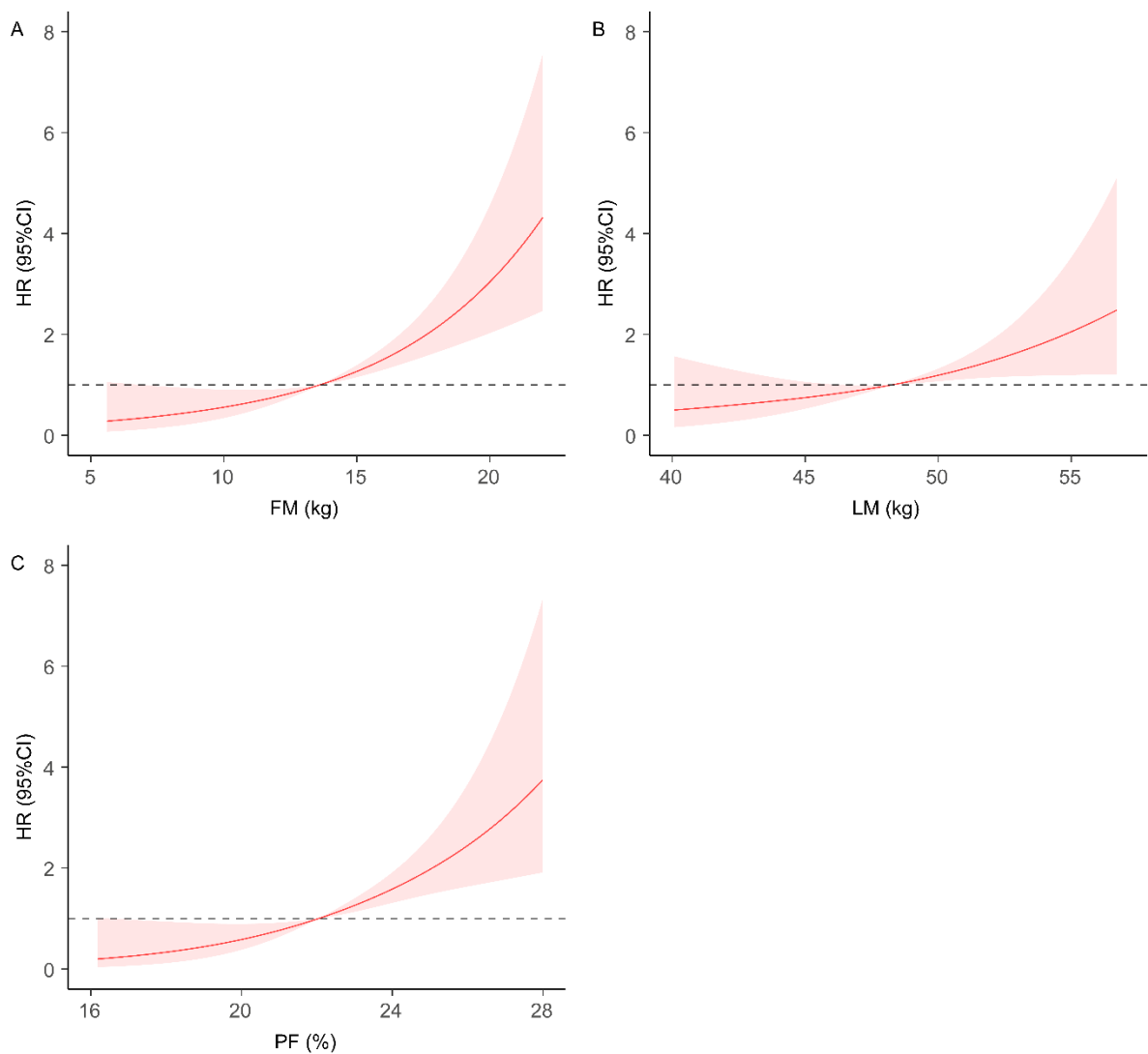


Figure S2 Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for women

Restricted cubic splines were used to flexibly models and visualize the relations of different parameters with risk of DM. Hazard ratios are indicated by solid lines and 95% CIs by shaded areas. Reference points were the medians for FM (A; 19.45 kg), LM (B; 34.38 kg), and PF (C; 36.39%), respectively. The dotted line represents HR = 1. Confounders in Table 2 were adjusted.

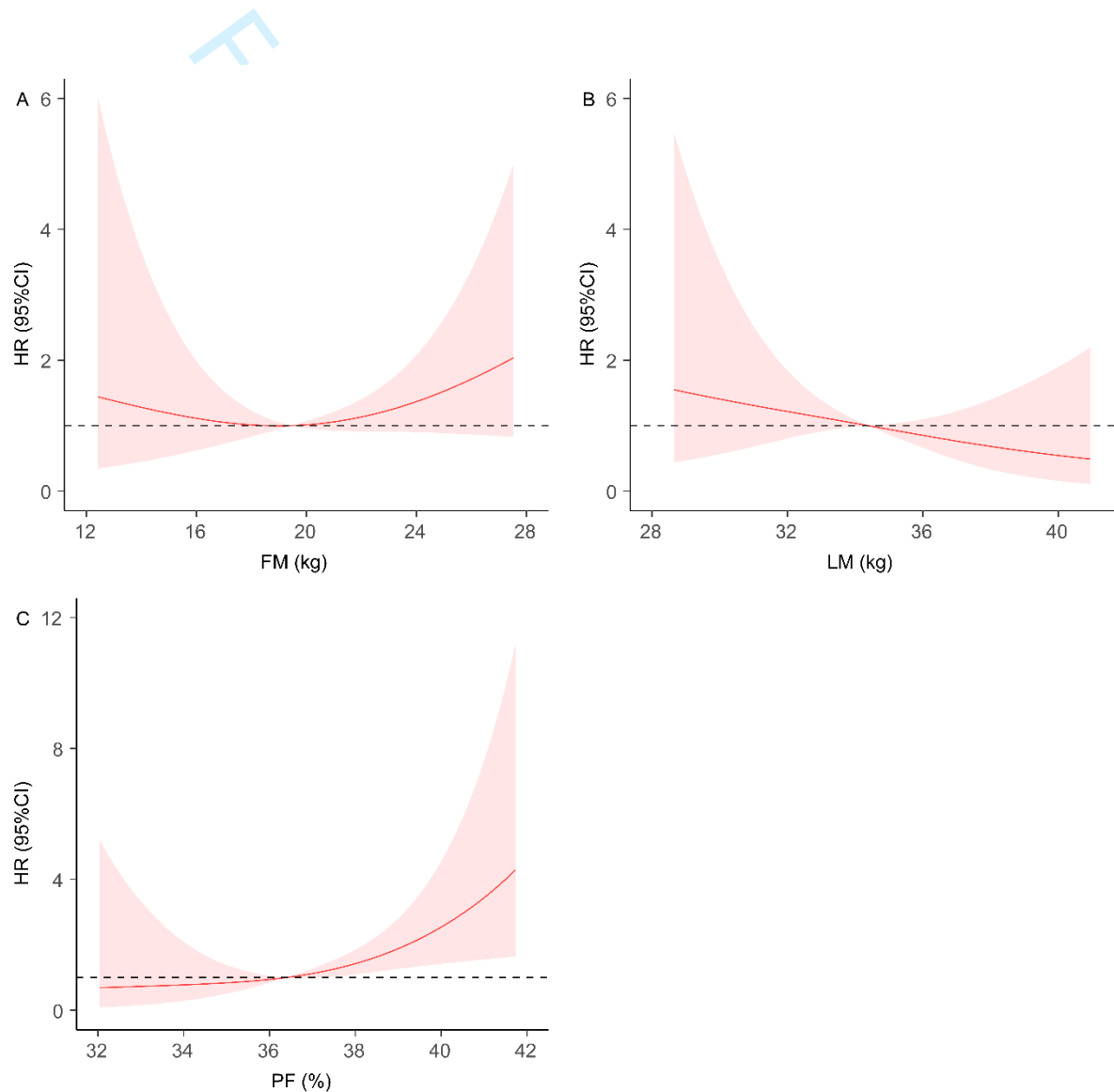


Table S3 Multivariate Cox regression models of commonly used obesity indicators for DM

| | Case (%) | Multivariate hazards regression * | |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| | | HR (95% CI) | p |
| For men | | | |
| BMI | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.27 (1.16-1.380) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 9 (6.87%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 10 (7.75%) | 1.09 (0.44-2.69) | 0.856 |
| T3 | 29 (20.86%) | 3.90 (1.81-8.37) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| WC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.10 (1.07-1.14) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 5 (4.03%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 17 (12.78%) | 3.24 (1.19-8.78) | 0.021 |
| T3 | 26 (18.31%) | 5.97 (2.27-15.71) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| HC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.11 (1.06-1.16) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 9 (7.03%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 11 (9.40%) | 1.19 (0.49-2.88) | 0.701 |
| T3 | 28 (18.18%) | 2.87 (1.35-6.08) | 0.006 |
| p for trend | | | 0.004 |
| WHR | | | |
| per 0.01-SD increase | | 1.09 (1.04-1.15) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 5 (3.82%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 18 (13.85%) | 3.65 (1.35-9.83) | 0.011 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------|
| T3 | 25 (18.12%) | 5.42 (2.07-14.18) | 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| Women | | | |
| BMI | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.23 (1.07-1.42) | 0.005 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (4.40%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 8 (8.33%) | 1.50 (0.44-5.07) | 0.515 |
| T3 | 14 (13.86%) | 1.64 (0.50-5.36) | 0.413 |
| p for trend | | | 0.712 |
| WC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.10 (1.04-1.16) | 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (4.26%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 4 (4.60%) | 0.77 (0.18-3.18) | 0.712 |
| T3 | 18 (16.82%) | 2.54 (0.83-7.78) | 0.104 |
| p for trend | | | 0.051 |
| HC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.06 (0.99-1.14) | 0.114 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (5.06%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 8 (8.33%) | 1.26 (0.37-4.33) | 0.718 |
| T3 | 14 (12.39%) | 1.52 (0.47-4.92) | 0.481 |
| p for trend | | | 0.768 |
| WHR | | | |
| per 0.01-SD increase | | 1.16 (1.07-1.25) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 1 (1.06%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 5 (5.21%) | 4.54 (0.53-38.91) | 0.168 |
| T3 | 20 (20.41%) | 15.91 (2.10-120.52) | 0.007 |

p for trend

< 0.001

*, adjusted for hypertension (yes/no), DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), TG, TC, HDL-C, LDL-C, and FPG in men; DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), SBP, TG, TC, HDL-C, and FPG in women
BMI, body mass index; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; HC, hip circumference; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HR, hazard ratio; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SD, standard deviation; T, tertile; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio

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Association of predicted fat mass, predicted lean mass, and predicted percent fat with diabetes mellitus in Chinese: a 15-year prospective cohort

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4 **Association of predicted fat mass, predicted lean mass, and predicted percent fat**
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6 **with diabetes mellitus in Chinese: a 15-year prospective cohort**
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ABSTRACT

Objectives: With body mass index (BMI) failing to distinguish the mass of fat from lean, several novel predicted equations for predicted fat mass (FM), predicted lean mass (LM), and predicted percent fat (PF) were recently developed and validated. Our aim was to explore whether the three novel parameters could better predict diabetes mellitus (DM) than the commonly used obesity indicators, including BMI, waist circumference, hip circumference, and waist-hip ratio.

Design: A 15-year prospective cohort was used.

Setting: It was a prospective cohort, consisting of a general Chinese population from 1992 to 2007.

Participants: This cohort enrolled 711 people. People suffering from DM at baseline ($n = 24$) were excluded, and 687 non-diabetics with complete data were included to the analysis.

Primary outcome: New-onset DM.

Results: After the follow-up, 74 (48 men and 26 women) incidences of DM were documented. For men, the adjusted hazard ratios (HR) were 1, 5.19 ($p = 0.003$), and 7.67 ($p < 0.001$) across predicted PF tertiles; 1, 2.86 ($p = 0.029$), and 5.60 ($p < 0.001$) across predicted FM tertiles; 1, 1.21 ($p = 0.646$), and 2.27 ($p = 0.025$) across predicted LM tertiles. Predicted FM performed better than other commonly used obesity indicators in discrimination with the highest Harrell's C-statistic among all the body composition parameters. Whereas, for women, none of the three novel parameters was the independent predictor.

Conclusion: Predicted PF, predicted LM, and predicted FM could independently predict the risk of DM for men, with predicted FM performing better in discrimination than other commonly used obesity indicators. For women, larger samples were further needed.

Key words: BMI, diabetes, fat mass, lean mass, obesity, percent fat

Strengths and limitations of this study

1. This study explored whether the three novel body composition parameters, including predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF, could predict DM better than BMI and other commonly used obesity indicators.
2. Cox's regression analysis was used to estimate HRs for DM, and Harrell's C-statistic was used to assess and compare the discriminatory ability of all the parameters in predicting new-onset DM.
3. The relatively small sample size might possibly lead to a statistical power decrease.

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a collection of chronic metabolic conditions, characterized by elevated blood glucose levels resulting from the body's inability to produce insulin or resistance to insulin action, or both¹. There are two primary forms of DM, insulin-dependent DM (type 1 diabetes mellitus, T1DM) and non-insulin-dependent DM (type 2 diabetes mellitus, T2DM). T2DM is the most common form, making up 90% - 95% of all diabetic patients¹. DM and its complications can result in disability and premature death², as well as enormous economic and social burdens³. There is no cure for DM, thus, prevention is the best intervention.

Among the well-known modifiable risk factors, obesity, defined as an excess accumulation of body fat, is regarded as a major risk factor⁴. Body mass index (BMI) has been mostly used as a simple and reasonable measure of general adiposity in clinical and public health settings. However, since it is defined as the result of weight in kilogram divided by height in meter squared, BMI is in poor discrimination of metabolically distinct components such as fat mass (FM) and lean mass (LM)⁵. Direct measurement of FM and LM is impractical in large epidemiological studies for sophisticated and expensive technologies such as dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) or imaging techniques (i.e. MRI and computerized tomography).

Recently, Lee et al developed anthropometric prediction equations for FM, LM, and percent fat (PF) from the large population samples of the noninstitutionalized civilians in the USA from National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey⁶. In the original study, the validation tests showed robust and consistent results without evident substantial bias, and comparable abilities to predict obesity-related biomarkers with direct DXA measurements. Later, based on two large US prospective cohorts, predicted FM and predicted PF were both estimated to have a stronger association than BMI with

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4 T2DM⁷. However, body compositions differ across ethnic groups^{8,9}. Healthy Chinese and South Asian
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6 individuals were measured to have a greater amount of visceral adipose tissue than Europeans with the
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8 same BMI or waist circumference¹⁰. Therefore, we aimed to evaluate if these equations could better
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10 predict the risk of DM in comparison with BMI and other obesity indicators, including waist
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12 circumference (WC), hip circumference (HC), and waist-hip ratio (WHR), in a 15-year prospective
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14 cohort consisting of Chinese people.
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22 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

23 **Study population**

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27 In 2007, supported by the Mega-projects of Science Research for China's 11th five-year plan
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29 (Trends in the incidence of metabolic syndrome and integrated control in China), a group of 711
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31 people, from an urban community situated in Chengdu, China, underwent a health examination. They
32
33 also had a health examination in 1992 as part of the Chinese Multi-provincial Cohort Study approved
34
35 by Beijing Institute of Heart, Lung, and Blood Vessel Disease that investigated cardiovascular risk
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37 factors across the country. Therefore, we picked up the data, and more details have been described
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39 elsewhere^{11, 12}. People suffering from DM at baseline (n = 24) were excluded. No one had missing data.
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42 Finally, the remaining 687 people with complete data were included in the analysis. All of them
43
44 provided written informed consent. The study was approved by the Ministry of Health of China, as
45
46 well as the Ethics Committee of West China Hospital of Sichuan University.
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52 **Evaluation**

53 **Definition**

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58 DM was defined by self-reported history or fasting plasma glucose (FPG) ≥ 7.0 mmol/L¹³.
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4 Hypertension was a conventional blood pressure of ≥ 140 mm Hg systolic, ≥ 90 mm Hg diastolic, or the
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6 use of antihypertensive drugs. DM family history was determined with a diagnosis of DM in the
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8 first-grade relatives. Smoking was defined as an average cigarette consumption of at least one per day.
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11 Frequent previous alcohol intake and present alcohol intake were both defined as alcohol consumption.
12
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14 Activity was defined as at least twice 20-minute moderately intensive physical activity per week.
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17 Data collection

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19 Baseline data in 1992 included medical history, physical examination, and biochemical tests.
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21
22 Questionnaires containing demographic information and cardiovascular disease risk factors were
23
24 collected by well-trained investigators. WC was measured at the midpoint between the lower border of
25
26 the rib cage and the iliac crest at the end of a normal exhalation. HC was measured at the maximum
27
28 protrusion of the gluteal region. WHR was calculated by WC in cm divided by HC in cm. Height was
29
30 measured without shoes. Weight was measured in light clothing. Blood pressure was measured in a
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32 sitting position after at least 15 min of rest, and the mean blood pressure of three measurements taken
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34 by a standardized mercury sphygmomanometer was used as a participant's blood pressure. Blood
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36 samples were drawn from participants in the morning after 12-h overnight fasting. FPG, total
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38 cholesterol (TC), and triglyceride (TG) levels were determined in an enzymatic method, and
39
40 high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) was measured by the phosphotungstic acid/MgCl₂
41
42 precipitation method. Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) was measured using a standard kit.
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50 Equation profiles

51 *Equations for predicted FM (kg)⁶*

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54 For men = $-18.592 - 0.009 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.080 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.226 \times \text{weight (kg)}$
55
56
57
58
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60 $+ 0.387 \times \text{WC (cm)} + 0.080 \times \text{Mexican} - 0.188 \times \text{Hispanic} - 0.483 \times \text{Black} + 1.050 \times$

other ethnicity

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For women} &= 11.817 + 0.041 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.199 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.610 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &+ 0.044 \times \text{WC (cm)} \\ &+ 0.388 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.073 \times \text{Hispanic} - 1.187 \times \text{Black} + 0.325 \times \text{other ethnicity} \end{aligned}$$

Equations for predicted LM (kg)⁶

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For men} &= 19.363 + 0.001 \times \text{age (year)} + 0.064 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.756 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &- 0.366 \times \text{WC (cm)} \\ &- 0.066 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.231 \times \text{Hispanic} + 0.432 \times \text{Black} - 1.007 \times \text{other ethnicity} \\ \text{For women} &= -10.683 - 0.039 \times \text{age (years)} + 0.186 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.383 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &- 0.043 \times \text{WC (cm)} \\ &- 0.359 \times \text{Mexican} - 0.059 \times \text{Hispanic} + 1.085 \times \text{Black} - 0.34 \times \text{other ethnicity} \end{aligned}$$

Equations for predicted PF (%)⁶

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For men} &= 0.02 + 0.00 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.07 \times \text{height (cm)} - 0.08 \times \text{weight (kg)} + 0.48 \times \text{WC} \\ &(\text{cm}) + 0.32 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.02 \times \text{Hispanic} - 0.65 \times \text{Black} + 1.12 \times \text{other ethnicity} \\ \text{For women} &= 50.46 + 0.07 \times \text{age (year)} - 0.26 \times \text{height (cm)} + 0.27 \times \text{weight (kg)} \\ &+ 0.10 \times \text{WC (cm)} + 0.89 \times \text{Mexican} + 0.49 \times \text{Hispanic} - 1.57 \times \text{Black} + 0.43 \times \text{other ethnicity} \end{aligned}$$

Patient and public involvement

Patients and/or the public were not involved in the design, or conduct, or reporting, or dissemination plans of this research.

Statistical analyses

For descriptive results, variables were expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation (SD), median and interquartile range, or counts and percentages as appropriate. Smoking, alcohol intake, activity,

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2
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4 hypertension, and family history of DM were expressed as dummy variables (presence= 1, absence=
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6 0). Differences in baseline characteristics between participants with and without new-onset DM were
7
8 tested by independent t-test for normally distributed variables and by the non-parametric
9
10 Mann-Whitney U-test for skewed variables. Interactions between categorical variables were evaluated
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12 with the Pearson χ^2 test, Fisher's exact probabilities were used if necessary. Correlations between
13
14 different variables were determined using Pearson's or Spearman's analysis.
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19 We treated all the parameters as sex-specific tertiles. The cumulative incidences of DM across
20
21 tertiles were graphically displayed according to the method of Kaplan-Meier, with comparisons among
22
23 groups by the log-rank test. Cox proportional hazards regression models were used to assess the impact
24
25 of the variables on the incidence rate of DM. Furthermore, restricted cubic spline analysis was used to
26
27 visualize the relations between variables and incident DM. To quantify and compare the discriminative
28
29 ability of different parameters, Harrell's c-index was calculated. A generally accepted approach
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31 suggests that the C-index of less than 0.60 reflects poor discrimination; 0.60 to 0.75, possibly helpful
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33 discrimination; and more than 0.75, clearly useful discrimination¹⁴.
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40 All statistical tests were 2-sided, and p value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

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43 Statistical analyses were performed using R version 3.6.3.
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48 **RESULTS**

49 **Baseline characteristics**

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53 After excluding people suffering from DM at baseline (n = 24), the remaining 687 (399 men and
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55 288 women) people free of DM at baseline with complete data were included in the analysis.
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58 Those who had subsequent DM were associated with higher baseline levels of FPG, weight, BMI,
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4 WC, HC, predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF for the males; associated with higher baseline
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6 levels of TC, TG, height, BMI, WC, HC, predicted FM, and predicted PF, and lower baseline level of
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8 HDL-C for the females. At baseline, age was not of significance between the two groups both in men
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10 and women, but there was still a trend that people suffering incident DM were older. Other details of
11
12 baseline information are shown in Table 1.
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17 As Online Supplemental Table S1 shows, predicted FM was strongly correlated with WC ($r_s =$
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19 0.98), followed by BMI ($r_s = 0.88$) and HC ($r_s = 0.82$) in men; strongly correlated with BMI ($r_s = 0.94$),
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21 followed by HC ($r_s = 0.87$) and WC ($r_s = 0.83$) in women. Predicted LM had a strong correlation with
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23 predicted FM ($r_s = 0.83$) in women and a relatively strong correlation with HC ($r_s = 0.71$) in men, but
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25 relatively weakly with WHR both in men ($r_s = 0.15$) and women ($r_s = 0.29$). Predicted PF was strongly
26
27 correlated with WC ($r_s = 0.97$) in men and BMI ($r_s = 0.95$) in women, but relatively weakly with
28
29 predicted LM both in men ($r_s = 0.35$) and women ($r_s = 0.51$).
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34 35 **Survival analysis**

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37 All the body composition parameters were divided into tertiles. Tertile 1 had the lowest estimated
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39 values while Tertile 3 had the highest. The category boundaries of all the parameters were displayed by
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41 gender in Online Supplemental Table S2. After the follow-up of 15 years, 74 (48 men and 26 women)
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43 incidences of DM were documented (incidence rate: 0.74 per 100 person-years; 95% CI: 0.57-0.91). As
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45 Figure 1A-C present, for men, the cumulative incidences of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis
46
47 were significantly different across the tertiles of predicted FM (log-rank $p = 0.001$), predicted LM
48
49 (log-rank $p = 0.030$), and predicted PF (log-rank $p < 0.001$), and people in Tertile 3 had the highest
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51 cumulative incidence of DM. For women, however, only predicted PF (log-rank $p = 0.028$) could help
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53 to distinguish the cumulative incidence across the tertiles (Figure 1D).
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4 For other obesity indicators, the cumulative incidences of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis
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6 were significantly different across the tertiles of BMI (log-rank $p < 0.001$), WC (log-rank $p = 0.001$),
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8 HC (log-rank $p = 0.006$), and WHR (log-rank $p = 0.001$) in men; WC (log-rank $p = 0.002$) and WHR
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10 (log-rank $p < 0.001$) in women.
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13 14 **Relation to risk of DM**

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17 Univariable cox regression analysis is shown in Online Supplemental Table S3. Predicted FM,
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19 predicted PF, BMI, WC, HC, and WHR were risk factors of DM both for men and women, and
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21 predicted LM was a risk factor for men only. Variables showing statistical significance in univariable
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23 analysis or clinical relevance ($p < 0.1$) were entered into multivariable analysis.
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27 In multivariable analysis, we adjusted potential confounders including hypertension (yes/no), DM
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29 family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), TG, TC, HDL-C, LDL-C,
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31 and FPG in men; hypertension (yes/no), DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol
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33 (yes/no), activity (yes/no), SBP, TG, TC, HDL-C, and FPG in women.
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38 As Table 2 shows, in men, predicted FM ($p < 0.001$), predicted LM ($p = 0.043$), and predicted PF
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40 ($p < 0.001$) were all the significantly independent predictors with the top tertiles associated with the
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42 highest risk of DM. Compared with the other parameters we studied, predicted PF in higher level was
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44 more strongly associated with increased risk of DM, since it showed a positive association with the risk
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46 of DM with the adjusted hazard ratio (HR) for Tertile 2 and Tertile 3 estimated as 5.19 [95%
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48 confidence interval (CI): 1.77-15.20, $p = 0.003$] and 7.67 (95% CI: 2.64-22.35, $p < 0.001$),
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51 respectively. There was a positive association between predicted FM and the risk of DM (HR: 2.86,
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53 95% CI: 1.12-7.33, $p = 0.029$ for Tertile 2; HR: 5.60, 95% CI: 2.27-13.80, $p < 0.001$ for Tertile 3,
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55
56 respectively) as well. Other commonly used parameters such as BMI ($p < 0.001$), WC ($p < 0.001$), HC
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($p = 0.004$) and WHR ($p < 0.001$) were also significant predictors (Online Supplemental Table S4), and WC and WHR showed a positive association across tertiles.

As for the women, however, none of the three novel parameters was significantly independent after adjustment (Table 2), as well as other commonly used obesity indicators but WHR, which ($p < 0.001$) remained stable and significant (Online Supplemental Table S4).

Furthermore, as Table 2 shows, we treated the predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF as continuous variables. In men, all of them were independent risk factors and it is true of the restricted cubic splines used to flexibly model and visualize the relations with risk of DM (Online Supplemental Figure S1). With the medians as reference points, all the three novel parameters showed an overall positive association with DM in men (Online Supplemental Figure S1); while in women, only predicted PF was independently associated with DM (Table 2, HR: 1.34 per 1-SD increase, 95% CI: 1.15-1.57, $p < 0.001$), and the restricted cubic spline shows the similar relationship, especially after the median (Online Supplemental Figure S2)

Discrimination

Table 3 shows discriminative abilities evaluated by Harrell's c-index of different body composition parameters. In the male group, predicted FM had the highest Harrell's c-index of 0.679 (95% CI: 0.606-0.752), and predicted LM had the lowest Harrell's c-index of 0.619 (95% CI: 0.537-0.701). All of the parameters we studied could provide possibly helpful discriminative information in the prediction of DM¹⁴.

In the female group, since WHR was the only significantly independent risk factor of DM both as continuous variable and categorical variable, we just estimated Harrell's c-index of WHR (0.768, 95% CI: 0.697-0.839), and it showed a clearly useful discriminative ability in predicting DM¹⁴.

DISCUSSION

In this study, we investigated the predictive abilities for the risk of DM of three novel body composition parameters including predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF, and compared them with other obesity indicators, in a Chinese prospective population during 15 years of follow-up. For men, our results showed predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF could independently predict the new onset of DM; in all the parameters we studied, predicted FM had the best discriminative ability, providing possibly helpful information in the prediction of DM. For women, none of the three novel parameters could be significantly independent in multivariable analysis; of all the parameters we estimated, WHR was the only independent predictor, with Harrell's c-index of 0.768, which suggested a clearly useful discrimination.

To our knowledge, this was the first study in a Chinese prospective cohort to evaluate the associations of three novel body composition parameters with the incidence of DM. BMI has been preferred as a measure indicating overall obesity for a long time to identify people at increased risk of DM¹⁵. However, BMI was not thought as a good indicator of obesity recently.^{5, 16} It fails to distinguish the mass of fat from lean, and had no gender distinction as well. For example, in common sense, athletes or someone liking exercise always had heavier weight for the mass of lean, they have greater BMI but they are not obese. Besides, aging is associated with an accumulation of visceral fat and a progressive loss of muscle mass¹⁶. With the same BMI, an old man has more mass of fat with less mass of muscle than a younger man.

Recently, Lee et al.⁶ developed equations predicting FM, LM, and PF in order to better reflect body composition. The predicted equations had a simple calculation and just require the information of

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4 gender, age, height, weight, WC, and ethnicity, which are easily measurable and accessible in clinical
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6 settings or even at home. Lee et al. later investigated the association between predicted FM and risk of
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8 DM in two large prospective cohorts of US men and women⁷. They found predicted FM, as well as
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10 predicted PF, had a stronger association with DM than BMI both in men and women. Similarly, in our
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12 study consisting of Chinese population, in the male group, both predicted FM and predicted PF could
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14 independently predict incident DM and predicted FM had the highest Harrell's value. Higher predicted
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16 PF was more strongly associated with increased risk of DM than other parameters.
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22 Besides in prediction of DM, predicted FM and predicted PF were also explored in the association
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24 with risk of heart failure and myocardial infarction in adults with T2DM¹⁷. The results showed a
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26 decline in predicted FM but not predicted LM, over 1 year was significantly associated with lower risk
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28 of overall heart failure (adjusted HR per 10% decrease in predicted FM: 0.80; 95% CI: 0.68-0.95);
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30 decline in predicted FM was significantly associated with lower risk of both heart failure subtypes
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32 (with preserved or reduced ejection fraction).
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38 In a post hoc analysis of data from the Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes
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40 (ACCORD) study¹⁸, researchers modified the two parameters, fat mass index and lean BMI, calculated
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42 by predicted FM and predicted LM, respectively, in kilograms divided by the square of height in
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44 meters. They found that in patients with T2DM, fat mass index had a strong positive association with a
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46 higher risk of a major adverse cardiovascular event, while predicted lean BMI was not associated with
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48 major cardiovascular events ($p = 0.34$).
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53 In a large prospective US cohort study of men¹⁹, there was a strong positive association between
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55 predicted FM and mortality from all causes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. Compared with those
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57 in the lowest fifth of predicted FM, men in the highest fifth had an HR of 1.35 (95% CI: 1.26-1.46) for
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4 all-cause mortality. In contrast, predicted LM showed a U-shaped association with all-cause mortality
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6 that men in the second to fourth fifths had 8-10% lower risk. The U-shaped associations were also
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8 found with deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer. However, there was a strong inverse
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10 association between predicted LM and mortality from respiratory disease.
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14 Lean body mass accounts for most of the human body mass, and it is essential not only in the
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16 stress response but also in metabolism²⁰. Muscle loss may have negative effects²⁰⁻²². Son et al.
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18 previously conducted a 2-yearly prospective assessment in middle-aged and older Korean adults, and
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20 reported that low muscle mass was associated with an increased risk of T2DM, independent of general
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22 obesity²³. In contrast, in our research, for the development of DM, the protective role of predicted LM
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24 could not be concluded. Instead, the top tertile of predicted LM had an increased risk in the male group.
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26 Since there is a lack of randomized clinical trial studies that directly assess the role of increased muscle
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28 mass in the prevention of new on-set DM²⁴, the association between predicted LM and risk of DM
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30 needs further explorations. After all, increased LM was not always simply reported as the protective
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32 factor of diseases or mortality¹⁷⁻¹⁹.
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40 There are certainly some limitations in our study. Firstly, 687 was a relatively small sample size,
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42 possibly leading to a statistical power decrease, for example, the results in women. Nevertheless, we
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44 still observed that as a continuous variable, predicted PF could independently predict the risk of
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46 incident DM in women. Maybe in a larger population, the relationships and comparisons would be
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48 more accurate. Secondly, due to the absence of oral glucose tolerance tests (OGTT) and hemoglobin
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50 A1c (HbA1c) data in our study, some people might not be adequately diagnosed. Thirdly, only one
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52 follow-up examination was carried out, so that there was no guarantee whether some “interval
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54 censoring” might have occurred.
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4 In conclusion, in the general Chinese population, predicted FM, predicted LM, and predicted PF
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6 could independently predict the risk of DM in men, and predicted FM performed better in
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8 discrimination than other commonly used obesity indicators including BMI, WC, HC, and WHR. For
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10 women, however, predicted FM, predicted LM, predicted PF, as well as other obesity indicators, but
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12 WHR, could not remain stable and independent in multivariable analysis, which might be attributed to
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14 the relatively small sample size with the corresponding few endpoints. Therefore, the conclusion of
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16 these findings should be extrapolated with caution, and larger samples from different races are needed
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18 to explore the predictive abilities of the three novel equations reflecting body composition on incident
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20 DM and other diseases.
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Competing interests

None declared.

Contributors

LL and SSJ: Participated in the conception and design of the study, performed the data collection and the statistical analysis, and wrote the draft of the manuscript. BC: Participated in the conception and design of the study, performed the statistical analysis, and wrote the revision version. SH and XPC: The corresponding authors, participated in the design of the study, performed the statistical analysis, and revised subsequent drafts. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Data availability statement

The data sets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Ethical approval statement

This study involved human patients and was approved by Ministry of Health of China and Ethics Committee of West China Hospital of Sichuan University.

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Table 1 Basic characteristics of people with or without subsequent DM.

| Variables | Men (n=399) | | | Women (n=288) | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| | Subsequent DM (n=48) | Subsequent non-DM (n=351) | p-value | Subsequent DM (n=26) | Subsequent non-DM (n=262) | p-value |
| Age (years) | 50.6 ± 5.0 | 49.0 (45.0-53.0) | 0.079 | 48.4 ± 6.8 | 46.0 (42.0-52.0) | 0.127 |
| Smoking (%) | 32 (66.7%) | 213 (60.7%) | 0.425 | 0 | 2 (0.8%) | 1.000 |
| Hypertension (%) | 9 (18.8%) | 50 (14.2%) | 0.410 | 7 (26.9%) | 38 (14.5%) | 0.150 |
| DM family history (%) | 3 (6.3%) | 9 (2.6%) | 0.165 | 3 (11.5%) | 18 (6.9%) | 0.418 |
| SBP (mm Hg) | 118.1 ± 14.5 | 110.0 (105.0-120.0) | 0.061 | 119.0 (103.0-132.5) | 110.0 (102.0-120.0) | 0.240 |
| DBP (mm Hg) | 74.0 (70.0-80.0) | 72.0 (70.0-80.0) | 0.292 | 76.4 ± 12.1 | 70.0 (71.0-80.0) | 0.226 |
| FPG (mmol/L) | 4.6 ± 0.8 | 4.0 (3.8-4.7) | <0.001 | 4.6 ± 0.9 | 3.8 (4.0-4.7) | 0.052 |
| TC (mmol/l) | 4.4 (4.1-4.8) | 4.3 (3.9-4.8) | 0.419 | 5.0 ± 0.7 | 4.4 (3.9-5.0) | 0.006 |
| TG (mmol/L) | 1.9 (1.7-3.0) | 1.9 (1.5-2.4) | 0.104 | 1.9 (1.5-2.3) | 1.8 (1.4-2.2) | <0.001 |
| HDL-C (mmol/L) | 1.2 (1.0-1.4) | 1.2 (1.1-1.4) | 0.193 | 1.2 ± 0.2 | 1.3 (1.1-1.5) | 0.009 |
| LDL-C (mmol/L) | 2.2 ± 0.8 | 2.1 (1.7-2.7) | 0.556 | 2.4 ± 1.0 | 2.3 (1.8-2.8) | 0.460 |
| Height (cm) | 165.4 ± 5.9 | 165.3 ± 5.6 | 0.898 | 151.9 ± 4.4 | 151.0 (155.0-159.0) | 0.006 |
| Weight (cm) | 68.5 (61.3-74.8) | 62.9 ± 8.2 | <0.001 | 58.6 ± 9.0 | 56.4 ± 7.5 | 0.168 |
| BMI (kg/m ²) | 24.8 (23.0-26.6) | 23.0 (20.9-24.8) | <0.001 | 25.3 ± 3.3 | 23.4 ± 2.6 | 0.001 |
| WC (cm) | 83.6 ± 8.2 | 78.0 (72.0-83.0) | <0.001 | 79.9 ± 7.6 | 73.5 ± 7.1 | <0.001 |
| HC (cm) | 95.0 (90.0-97.0) | 91.0 (87.0-95.0) | <0.001 | 95.4 ± 7.4 | 92.6 ± 5.8 | 0.021 |
| WHR | 0.89 ± 0.05 | 0.85 ± 0.06 | 0.001 | 0.84 ± 0.04 | 0.79 ± 0.05 | <0.001 |
| FM (kg) | 16.4 ± 5.2 | 13.3 (9.6-16.2) | <0.001 | 21.8 ± 5.4 | 19.6 ± 4.3 | 0.014 |
| LM (kg) | 50.2 ± 5.0 | 48.1 ± 4.5 | 0.004 | 34.3 ± 3.5 | 34.4 ± 3.4 | 0.894 |
| PF (%) | 24.0 ± 3.4 | 21.8 ± 3.1 | <0.001 | 38.6 ± 2.9 | 36.4 ± 2.4 | <0.001 |

BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; FM, fat mass; HC, hip circumference; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LM, lean mass; SBP, systolic blood pressure; PF, percent fat; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio.

Table 2 Multivariable Cox regression models for DM

| | Case (%) | Multivariable hazard ratio regression * | |
|-------------------|-------------|---|---------|
| | | HR (95% CI) | p |
| For men | | | |
| FM | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.18 (1.11-1.25) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 6 (4.54%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 16 (12.21%) | 2.86 (1.12-7.33) | 0.029 |
| T3 | 26 (19.12%) | 5.60 (2.27-13.80) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| LM | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.10 (1.03-1.17) | 0.003 |
| T1 (reference) | 11 (8.33%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 13 (9.92%) | 1.21 (0.54-2.70) | 0.646 |
| T3 | 24 (17.65%) | 2.27 (1.11-4.63) | 0.025 |
| p for trend | | | 0.043 |
| PF | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.25 (1.14-1.36) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (3.03%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 20 (15.27%) | 5.19 (1.77-15.20) | 0.003 |
| T3 | 24 (17.65%) | 7.67 (2.64-22.35) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| Women | | | |
| FM | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.04 (0.95-1.15) | 0.375 |
| T1 (reference) | 5 (5.26%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 9 (9.47%) | 1.38 (0.45-4.23) | 0.571 |
| T3 | 12 (12.24%) | 1.08 (0.35-3.37) | 0.900 |

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------|------------------|---------|
| | p for trend | | | 0.811 |
| LM | | | | |
| | per 1-SD increase | | 0.92 (0.81-1.05) | 0.205 |
| | T1 (reference) | 6 (6.28%) | 1 | - |
| | T2 | 13 (13.54%) | 1.33 (0.49-3.61) | 0.576 |
| | T3 | 7 (7.14%) | 0.62 (0.19-2.05) | 0.432 |
| | p for trend | | | 0.332 |
| PF | | | | |
| | per 1-SD increase | | 1.34 (1.15-1.57) | < 0.001 |
| | T1 (reference) | 3 (3.16%) | 1 | - |
| | T2 | 9 (9.47%) | 1.95 (0.49-7.66) | 0.341 |
| | T3 | 14 (14.29%) | 2.39 (0.63-9.10) | 0.202 |
| | p for trend | | | 0.442 |

*, adjusted for hypertension (yes/no), DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), TG, HDL-C, LDL-C, and FPG in men; DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), SBP, TG, TC, HDL-C, and FPG in women; CI: Confidence interval; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; FM, fat mass; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HR, hazard ratio; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LM, lean mass; PF, percent fat; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SD, standard deviation; T, tertile; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride

Table 3 Discriminative abilities evaluated by Harrell's c-index of different body composition parameters

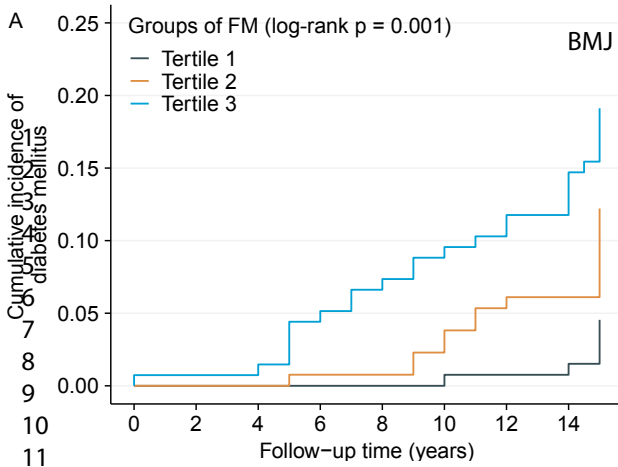
| Variables | Men | | Women | |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | Harrell's c-index | 95% CI | Harrell's c-index | 95% CI |
| FM | 0.679 | 0.606-0.752 | - | - |
| LM | 0.619 | 0.537-0.701 | - | - |
| PF | 0.670 | 0.598-0.742 | - | - |
| BMI | 0.675 | 0.599-0.751 | - | - |
| WC | 0.673 | 0.600-0.746 | - | - |
| WHR | 0.652 | 0.578-0.726 | 0.768 | 0.697-0.839 |
| HC | 0.636 | 0.560-0.712 | - | - |

CI: Confidence interval; FM, fat mass; LM, lean mass; PF, percent fat; BMI, body mass index; HC, hip circumference; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio

Figure legends

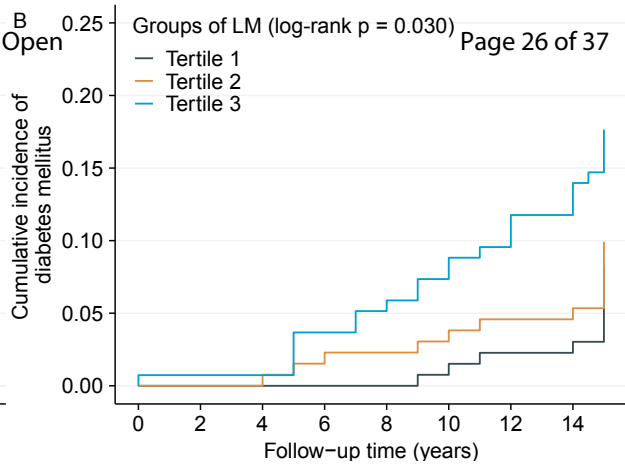
Figure 1 Cumulative incidence of DM across tertiles of three novel predicted body composition during follow-up.

Survival curves were presented as Kaplan-Meier curves, and the log-rank tests were used for comparison among tertiles. For men (n = 399), the cumulative incidences of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis were significantly different across the tertiles of predicted FM (A, log-rank p = 0.001), predicted LM (B, log-rank p = 0.030), and predicted PF (C, log-rank p < 0.001). For women (n = 288), the cumulative incidence of DM evaluated by Kaplan-Meier analysis was just significantly different across the tertiles of predicted PF (D, log-rank p = 0.028). People in the top tertile had the highest cumulative incidence of DM. DM = diabetes mellitus



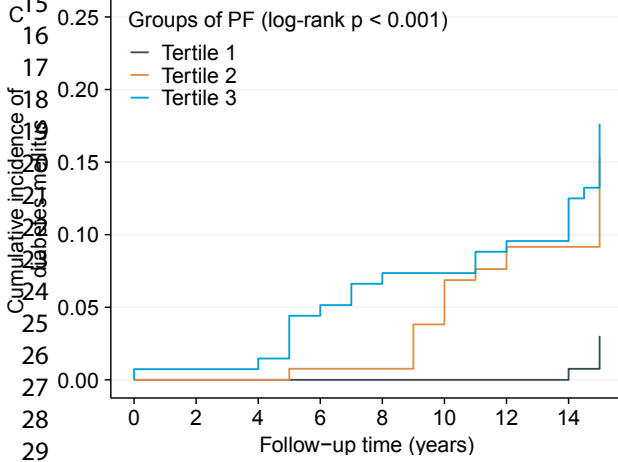
No. at risk

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tertile 1 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 131 | 131 |
| Tertile 2 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 130 | 130 | 128 | 124 |
| Tertile 3 | 136 | 135 | 135 | 130 | 127 | 124 | 120 |



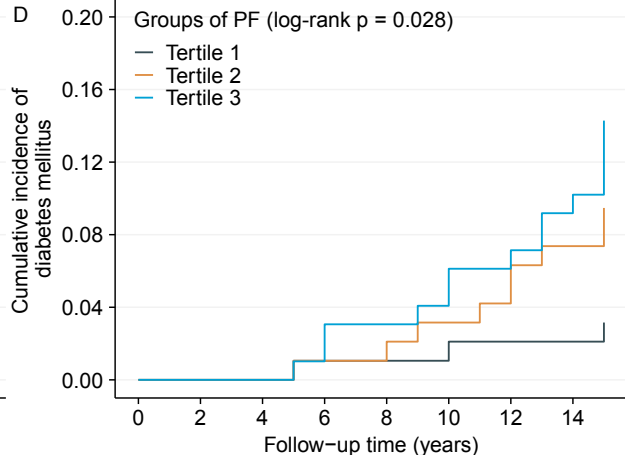
No. at risk

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tertile 1 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 131 | 129 | 129 |
| Tertile 2 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 129 | 128 | 127 | 125 | 125 |
| Tertile 3 | 136 | 135 | 135 | 131 | 129 | 126 | 123 | 120 |



No. at risk

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tertile 1 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 |
| Tertile 2 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 130 | 130 | 126 | 119 |
| Tertile 3 | 136 | 135 | 135 | 130 | 127 | 126 | 123 |



No. at risk

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Tertile 1 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 94 | 94 | 94 | 93 | 93 |
| Tertile 2 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 94 | 94 | 92 | 91 | 88 |
| Tertile 3 | 98 | 98 | 98 | 97 | 95 | 94 | 92 | 89 |

Supplemental Materials

Table S1: Spearman correlations among different predicted body composition parameters

Table S2: Category boundaries of all the body composition parameters

Table S3: Univariable Cox regression analysis for DM

Table S4: Multivariable Cox regression analysis of commonly used obesity indicators for DM

Figure S1: Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for men

Figure S2: Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for women

Table S1 Spearman correlations among different predicted body composition parameters

| | WC | HC | WHR | BMI | FM | LM | PF |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Men | | | | | | | |
| WC | 1.00 | 0.77 | 0.80 | 0.79 | 0.98 | 0.52 | 0.97 |
| HC | | 1.00 | 0.28 | 0.76 | 0.82 | 0.71 | 0.69 |
| WHR | | | 1.00 | 0.51 | 0.72 | 0.15 | 0.84 |
| BMI | | | | 1.00 | 0.88 | 0.69 | 0.75 |
| FM | | | | | 1.00 | 0.66 | 0.92 |
| LM | | | | | | 1.00 | 0.35 |
| PF | | | | | | | 1.00 |
| Women | | | | | | | |
| WC | 1.00 | 0.83 | 0.74 | 0.76 | 0.83 | 0.62 | 0.84 |
| HC | | 1.00 | 0.28 | 0.79 | 0.87 | 0.74 | 0.78 |
| WHR | | | 1.00 | 0.39 | 0.42 | 0.29 | 0.53 |
| BMI | | | | 1.00 | 0.94 | 0.63 | 0.95 |
| FM | | | | | 1.00 | 0.83 | 0.89 |
| LM | | | | | | 1.00 | 0.51 |
| PF | | | | | | | 1.00 |

BMI, body mass index; FM, fat mass; HC, hip circumference; LM, lean mass; PF: percent fat; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio

All correlations were significant with $p < 0.05$.

Table S2 Category boundaries of all the body composition parameters

| | Men (n = 399) | | | Women (n = 288) | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Tertile 1 (n = 132) | Tertile 2 (n = 131) | Tertile 3 (n = 136) | Tertile 1 (n = 95) | Tertile 2 (n = 95) | Tertile 3 (n = 98) |
| FM (kg) | < 11.088 | 11.088 - 15.650 | > 15.650 | < 17.478 | 17.478 - 21.573 | > 21.573 |
| LM (kg) | < 46.377 | 46.377 - 50.377 | > 50.377 | < 32.867 | 32.867 - 35.735 | > 35.735 |
| PF (%) | < 20.622 | 20.622 - 23.304 | > 23.304 | < 35.402 | 35.402 - 37.630 | > 37.630 |
| BMI (kg/m ²) | < 21.800 | 21.800 - 24.500 | > 24.500 | < 22.200 | 22.200 - 24.700 | > 24.700 |
| WC (cm) | < 75.000 | 75.000 - 82.000 | > 82.000 | < 71.000 | 71.000 - 76.000 | > 76.000 |
| HC (cm) | < 90.000 | 90.000 - 94.000 | > 94.000 | < 90.000 | 90.000 - 95.000 | > 95.000 |
| WHR | < 0.841 | 0.841 - 0.879 | > 0.879 | < 0.773 | 0.773 - 0.814 | > 0.814 |

BMI, body mass index; FM, fat mass; HC, hip circumference; LM, lean mass; PF: percent fat; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio

Table S3 Univariable Cox regression analysis for DM

| Variable | Change | HR | 95% CI | p |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------|---------|
| Men | | | | |
| Age (years) | 1-SD increment | 1.05 | 0.996-1.10 | 0.072 |
| Smoking (%) | Yes vs no | 0.79 | 0.44-1.45 | 0.448 |
| Hypertension (%) | Yes vs no | 1.36 | 0.66-2.81 | 0.406 |
| DM family history (%) | Yes vs no | 0.44 | 0.14-1.40 | 0.163 |
| SBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.02 | 0.998-1.036 | 0.076 |
| DBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.02 | 0.998-1.052 | 0.234 |
| FPG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.78 | 1.26-2.52 | 0.001 |
| TC (mmol/l) | 1-SD increment | 1.15 | 0.79-1.66 | 0.476 |
| TG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.16 | 0.91-1.47 | 0.248 |
| HDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 0.57 | 1.16-2.00 | 0.376 |
| LDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.04 | 0.73-1.48 | 0.818 |
| Height (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.01 | 0.96-1.06 | 0.834 |
| Weight (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.07 | 1.04-1.11 | < 0.001 |
| BMI (kg/m ²) | 1-SD increment | 1.23 | 1.13-1.33 | < 0.001 |
| WC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.09 | 1.05-1.13 | < 0.001 |
| HC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.09 | 1.05-1.14 | < 0.001 |
| WHR | 0.01-SD increment | 1.09 | 1.04-1.15 | < 0.001 |
| FM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 1.16 | 1.09-1.22 | < 0.001 |
| LM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 1.10 | 1.04-1.17 | 0.002 |
| PF (%) | 1-SD increment | 1.23 | 1.13-1.34 | < 0.001 |
| Women | | | | |
| Age (years) | 1-SD increment | 1.04 | 0.98-1.11 | 0.161 |
| Smoking (%) | Yes vs no | 20.306 | - | 0.771 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------|-------|------------|---------|
| 5 | Hypertension (%) | Yes vs no | 2.00 | 0.84-4.76 | 0.116 |
| 6 | DM family history (%) | Yes vs no | 0.57 | 0.17-1.88 | 0.353 |
| 7 | SBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.02 | 0.999-1.04 | 0.062 |
| 8 | DBP (mm Hg) | 1-SD increment | 1.03 | 0.99-1.07 | 0.111 |
| 9 | FPG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.86 | 1.14-3.03 | 0.013 |
| 10 | TC (mmol/l) | 1-SD increment | 1.67 | 1.12-2.50 | 0.012 |
| 11 | TG (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.46 | 1.26-1.69 | < 0.001 |
| 12 | HDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 0.081 | 0.01-0.54 | 0.009 |
| 13 | LDL-C (mmol/L) | 1-SD increment | 1.05 | 0.67-1.65 | 0.824 |
| 14 | Height (cm) | 1-SD increment | 0.91 | 0.84-0.98 | 0.009 |
| 15 | Weight (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.04 | 0.986-1.09 | 0.156 |
| 16 | BMI (kg/m ²) | 1-SD increment | 1.27 | 1.10-1.46 | 0.001 |
| 17 | WC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.11 | 1.06-1.17 | < 0.001 |
| 18 | HC (cm) | 1-SD increment | 1.08 | 1.01-1.16 | 0.019 |
| 19 | WHR | 0.01-SD increment | 1.17 | 1.09-1.25 | < 0.001 |
| 20 | FM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 1.11 | 1.02-1.21 | 0.013 |
| 21 | LM (kg) | 1-SD increment | 0.99 | 0.89-1.12 | 0.912 |
| 22 | PF (%) | 1-SD increment | 1.38 | 1.19-1.60 | < 0.001 |

BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; FM, fat mass; HC, hip circumference; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LM, lean mass; SBP, systolic blood pressure; PF, percent fat; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio.

Table S4 Multivariable Cox regression models of commonly used obesity indicators for DM

| | Case (%) | Multivariable hazards regression* | |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| | | HR (95% CI) | p |
| For men | | | |
| BMI | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.27 (1.16-1.380) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 9 (6.87%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 10 (7.75%) | 1.09 (0.44-2.69) | 0.856 |
| T3 | 29 (20.86%) | 3.90 (1.81-8.37) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| WC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.10 (1.07-1.14) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 5 (4.03%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 17 (12.78%) | 3.24 (1.19-8.78) | 0.021 |
| T3 | 26 (18.31%) | 5.97 (2.27-15.71) | < 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| HC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.11 (1.06-1.16) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 9 (7.03%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 11 (9.40%) | 1.19 (0.49-2.88) | 0.701 |
| T3 | 28 (18.18%) | 2.87 (1.35-6.08) | 0.006 |
| p for trend | | | 0.004 |
| WHR | | | |
| per 0.01-SD increase | | 1.09 (1.04-1.15) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 5 (3.82%) | 1 | - |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|
| T2 | 18 (13.85%) | 3.65 (1.35-9.83) | 0.011 |
| T3 | 25 (18.12%) | 5.42 (2.07-14.18) | 0.001 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |
| Women | | | |
| BMI | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.23 (1.07-1.42) | 0.005 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (4.40%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 8 (8.33%) | 1.50 (0.44-5.07) | 0.515 |
| T3 | 14 (13.86%) | 1.64 (0.50-5.36) | 0.413 |
| p for trend | | | 0.712 |
| WC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.10 (1.04-1.16) | 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (4.26%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 4 (4.60%) | 0.77 (0.18-3.18) | 0.712 |
| T3 | 18 (16.82%) | 2.54 (0.83-7.78) | 0.104 |
| p for trend | | | 0.051 |
| HC | | | |
| per 1-SD increase | | 1.06 (0.99-1.14) | 0.114 |
| T1 (reference) | 4 (5.06%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 8 (8.33%) | 1.26 (0.37-4.33) | 0.718 |
| T3 | 14 (12.39%) | 1.52 (0.47-4.92) | 0.481 |
| p for trend | | | 0.768 |
| WHR | | | |
| per 0.01-SD increase | | 1.16 (1.07-1.25) | < 0.001 |
| T1 (reference) | 1 (1.06%) | 1 | - |
| T2 | 5 (5.21%) | 4.54 (0.53-38.91) | 0.168 |

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---------|
| T3 | 20 (20.41%) | 15.91 (2.10-120.52) | 0.007 |
| p for trend | | | < 0.001 |

*, adjusted for hypertension (yes/no), DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), TG, TC, HDL-C, LDL-C, and FPG in men; DM family history (yes/no), smoking (yes/no), alcohol (yes/no), activity (yes/no), SBP, TG, TC, HDL-C, and FPG in women
 BMI, body mass index; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; HC, hip circumference; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HR, hazard ratio; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SD, standard deviation; T, tertile; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-hip ratio

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Figure S1 Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for men

Restricted cubic splines were used to flexibly model and visualize the relations of different parameters with risk of DM. Hazard ratios are indicated by solid lines and 95% CIs by shaded areas. Reference points were the medians for FM (A; 13.61 kg), LM (B; 48.27 kg), and PF (C; 22.04%), respectively. The dotted line represents HR = 1. Confounders in Table 2 were adjusted.

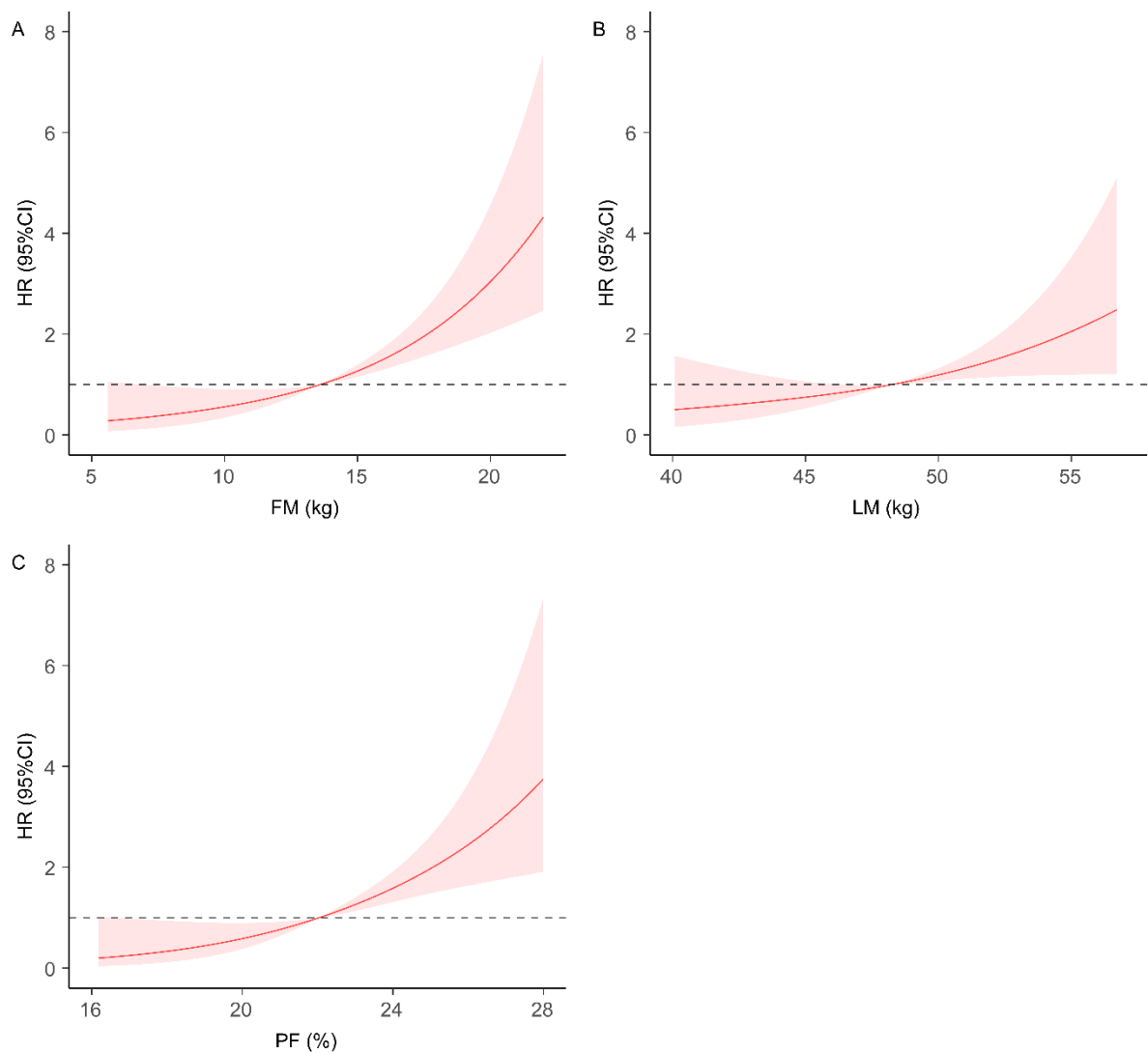
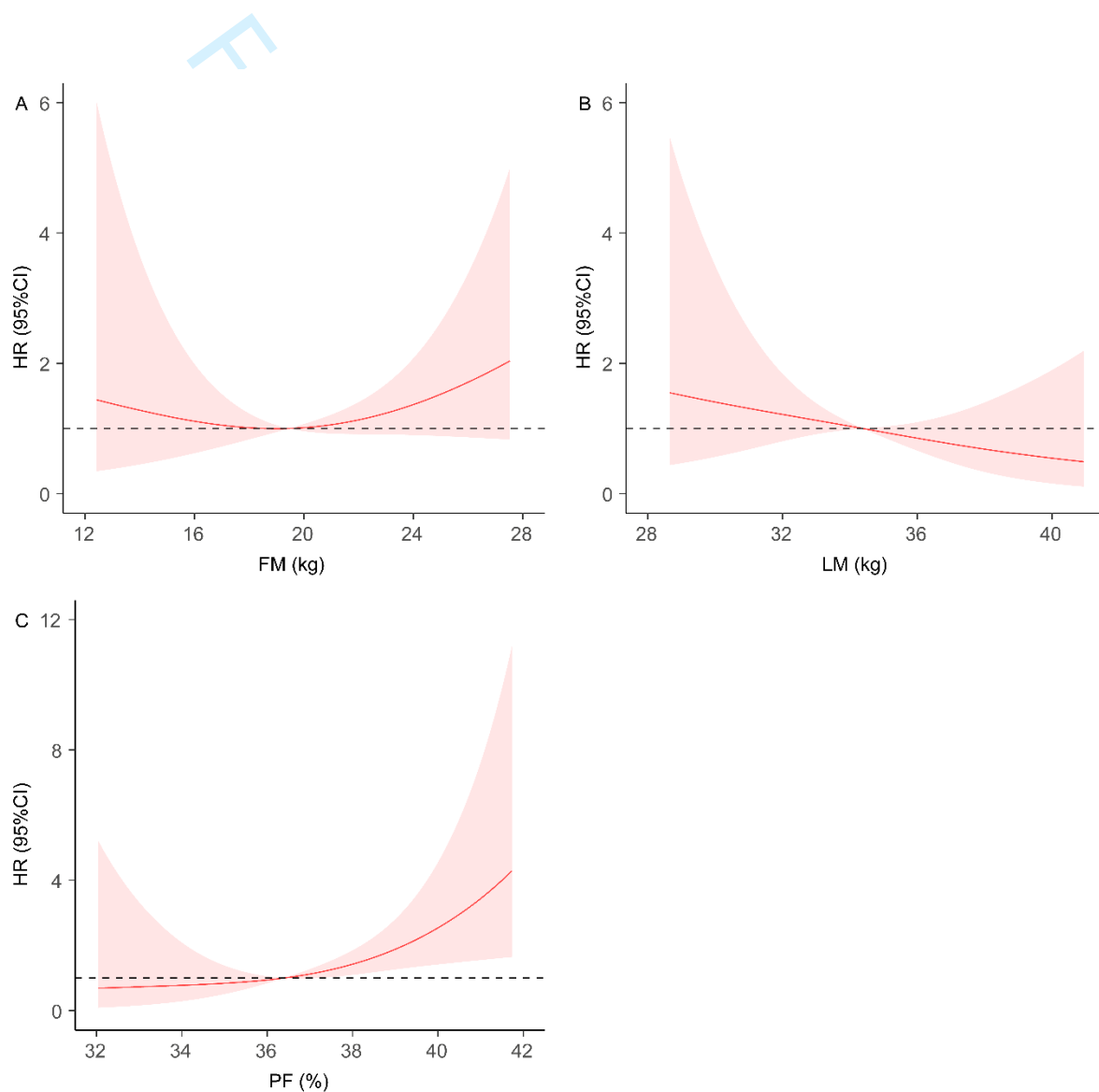


Figure S2 Associations of three novel predicted body composition with risk of DM for women

Restricted cubic splines were used to flexibly models and visualize the relations of different parameters with risk of DM. Hazard ratios are indicated by solid lines and 95% CIs by shaded areas. Reference points were the medians for FM (A; 19.45 kg), LM (B; 34.38 kg), and PF (C; 36.39%), respectively. The dotted line represents HR = 1. Confounders in Table 2 were adjusted.



STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *cohort studies*

| | Item No | Recommendation | Page No |
|------------------------------|---------|--|--------------------------|
| Title and abstract | 1 | (a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found | 1, 2 2 |
| Introduction | | | |
| Background/rationale | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported | 4 |
| Objectives | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses | 5 |
| Methods | | | |
| Study design | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paper | 5 |
| Setting | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection | 5, 6 |
| Participants | 6 | (a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up (b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed | 5 N/A |
| Variables | 7 | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable | 5, 6 |
| Data sources/ measurement | 8* | For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group | 6, 7 |
| Bias | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias | - |
| Study size | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived at | 5 |
| Quantitative variables | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why | 8 |
| Statistical methods | 12 | (a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions (c) Explain how missing data were addressed (d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses | 7, 8 - 5 5 - |
| Results | | | |
| Participants | 13* | (a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage (c) Consider use of a flow diagram | 8 8 - |
| Descriptive data | 14* | (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest (c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) | 8, 9 N/A 9 |
| Outcome data | 15* | Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time | 9 |

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|--|-------|
| 1 | Main results | 16 | (a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included | 9-11 |
| 2 | | | (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized | 9 |
| 3 | | | (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period | 9-11 |
| 4 | | | | |
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| 9 | Other analyses | 17 | Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses | - |
| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | Discussion | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | Key results | 18 | Summarise key results with reference to study objectives | 12 |
| 14 | Limitations | 19 | Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias | 14 |
| 15 | | | | |
| 16 | Interpretation | 20 | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence | 12-14 |
| 17 | | | | |
| 18 | | | | |
| 19 | Generalisability | 21 | Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results | 15 |
| 20 | | | | |
| 21 | Other information | | | |
| 22 | Funding | 22 | Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based | 16 |
| 23 | | | | |
| 24 | | | | |

*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at <http://www.annals.org/>, and Epidemiology at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at <http://www.strobe-statement.org>.