

Supplementary Table 1. Demographics, clinical and laboratory characteristics in SLE, RA, SS patients and healthy individuals, regarding traditional and disease related cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors.

	SLE (n=121)	RA (n=79)	SS (n=63)	Healthy (n=26)	p-value*	p-value**	p-value***	p-value****	p-value*****
Demographics									
Age (Mean ± SD) years	45.0±13.1	62.6±12.9	57.7±13	53.8±12.3	0.0004	0.0012	ns	<0.0001	<0.0001
Female sex (%)	93.4%	83.5%	93.7%	80.8%	ns	ns	ns	0.03	ns
Disease duration (mean ± SD) years	8.8±8.2	15.7±11.5	8.3±6.4	na	na	na	na	<0.0001	ns
BMI (mean ±SD) kg/m ²	25.0±5.0	27.8±5.4	27.0±5.3	26.0±3.6	ns	ns	ns	0.0009	0.02
Traditional risk factors									
FH of CVD (%)	22.0	27.9	12.9	26.3	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.04
DM (%)	3.3%	11.4%	11.3%	0	ns	ns	ns	0.04	0.046
HT (%)	28.1%	39.2%	30.6%	35.0%	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Smoking (mean ± SD) packs/year	9.4±13.5	17.2±31.2	7.1±15.3	2.0±4.9	0.009	0.04	ns	ns	ns
Total Cholesterol levels (mean ± SD) mg/dl	185.4±41.6	203.2±37.8	192.9±38.2	211.8±32.7	0.001	ns	0.04	0.002	ns
Triglycerides (mean ± SD) mg/dl	112.9±55.0	132.8±57.2	98.8±44.5	95.3±43.6	ns	0.02	ns	ns	0.003
LDL (mean ± SD) mg/dl	109.6±35.7	122.9±30.0	116.6±30.6	131.1±33.3	0.01	ns	ns	0.01	ns
HDL-C (mean ± SD) mg/dl	50.8±15.4	55.9±15.2	59.7±22.1	61.6±16.2	0.005	ns	ns	0.006	0.01
Uric acid (mean ± SD) mg/dl	4.5±1.6	4.3±1.7	4.0±1.3	3.8±1.4	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Homocysteine levels (µmol/L)	14.1±5.5	14.5±6.4	14.8±5.2	13.9±3.8	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Total steroid dose (mean ± SD) mg	24144±29135	850.3±1305	4508±8276	na	na	na	na	<0.0001	<0.0001
Current steroid dose (mean ± SD) mg/day	10.2±13.1	4.6±3.7	1.6±6.5	na	na	na	na	<0.0001	<0.0001
Markers of subclinical atherosclerosis									
Plaque (%)	57.9%	79.8%	67.2%	52.0%	ns	0.0001	ns	0.001	ns
High IMT (>0.9mm) (%)	36.7%	73.0%	63.9%	38.5%	ns	0.004	0.04	<0.001	0.008
IMT levels (mean ± SD) mm	0.9±0.3	1.1±0.4	1.0±0.2	0.8±0.2	ns	<0.001	0.0002	<0.0001	0.01

*SLE vs. HC; **RA vs. HC; ***SS vs. HC; ****SLE vs. RA; *****SLE vs. SS; *****RA vs. SS.

SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus; RA: rheumatoid arthritis; SS: Sjögren's syndrome; BMI: body mass index; FH of CVD: family history of cardiovascular disease; DM: diabetes mellitus; HT: hypertension; LDL-C: low density lipoprotein; HDL-C: high density lipoprotein-cholesterol.