

Supplementary Table 1. Incidence of MAFLD according to quartiles of serum uric acid levels stratified by gender

Gender	Quartile of uric acid				P-value	1 unit increase in <i>ln</i> (uric acid)
	Q1 (lowest)	Q2	Q3	Q4 (highest)		
Male (n=3,074)						
N	771	772	778	753		
Person-years	4,217	4,190	4,163	3,864		
Incident cases (n)	122	129	132	198		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	28.93 (24.23-34.55)	30.79 (25.91-36.59)	31.71 (26.73-37.60)	51.25 (44.58-58.91)		
Model 1 (n=7,818)	Reference	1.07 (0.84-1.37)	1.11 (0.87-1.42)	1.80 (1.44-2.26)	<0.001	2.71 (1.78-4.13)
Model 2 (n=7,818)	Reference	1.07 (0.83-1.37)	1.10 (0.86-1.41)	1.79 (1.43-2.25)	<0.001	2.69 (1.76-4.11)
Model 3 (n=3,472)	Reference	1.09 (0.80-1.47)	1.22 (0.90-1.64)	2.06 (1.56-2.72)	<0.001	3.63 (2.15-6.14)
Model 4 (n=3,472)	Reference	1.11 (0.82-1.50)	1.21 (0.89-1.63)	2.02 (1.53-2.68)	<0.001	3.47 (2.06-5.84)
Female (n=4,744)						
N	1,206	1,328	1,102	1,108		
Person-years	6,673	7,297	5,878	5,538		
Incident cases (n)	82	126	116	168		
Rate per 1,000 person-years	12.29 (9.90-15.26)	17.27 (14.50-20.56)	19.73 (16.45-23.67)	30.34 (26.08-35.29)		
Model 1 (n=4,744)	Reference	1.41 (1.06-1.86)	1.61 (1.21-2.13)	2.50 (1.92-3.26)	<0.001	4.76 (3.05-7.44)
Model 2 (n=4,744)	Reference	1.40 (1.06-1.85)	1.62 (1.22-2.15)	2.53 (1.94-3.30)	<0.001	4.84 (3.10-7.56)
Model 3 (n=1,392)	Reference	1.33 (0.76-2.34)	1.54 (0.88-2.72)	2.80 (1.65-4.73)	<0.001	4.31 (1.75-10.65)
Model 4 (n=1,392)	Reference	1.29 (0.73-2.27)	1.48 (0.84-2.62)	2.64 (1.55-4.49)	<0.001	3.86 (1.56-9.56)

Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years are reported as values with 95% confidence intervals (CI). Hazard ratios (HR) for the risk of incident MAFLD are shown for Models 1-4 with their respective 95% CIs. Cut-offs for quartiles 1-4 of serum uric acid levels in males are as follows: ≤ 5.00 mg/dL, 5.10-5.70 mg/dL, 5.80-6.40 mg/dL and ≥ 6.50 mg/dL respectively. Cut-offs for quartiles 1-4 of serum uric acid levels in females are as follows: ≤ 3.60 mg/dL, 3.70-4.10 mg/dL, 4.20-4.60 mg/dL and ≥ 4.70 mg/dL respectively. Model 1: crude; Model 2: adjusted for age; Model 3: additionally adjusted for smoking status (never, former, and current smokers), alcohol intake (never, moderate, and heavy drinkers) and physical activity (inactive, moderately active, and HEPA active); Model 4: additionally adjusted for log-transformed serum ferritin levels.

Abbreviations: Q, quartile.

Supplementary Table 2. Incidence of MAFLD according to quartiles of serum ferritin levels stratified by gender

Gender	Quartile of ferritin				P-value	1 unit increase in <i>ln</i> (ferritin)
	Q1 (lowest)	Q2	Q3	Q4 (highest)		
Male (n=3,074)						
N	769	769	768	768		
Person-years	4,253	4,184	4,087	3,910		
Incident cases (n)	129	148	132	172		
Rate per 1000 person-years	30.33 (25.52-36.04)	35.37 (30.11-41.55)	32.30 (27.23-38.31)	43.99 (37.89-51.08)		
Model 1 (n=3,074)	Reference	1.17 (0.93-1.48)	1.10 (0.86-1.40)	1.50 (1.20-1.89)	<0.001	1.28 (1.10-1.50)
Model 2 (n=3,074)	Reference	1.17 (0.92-1.48)	1.09 (0.85-1.39)	1.49 (1.19-1.88)	0.002	1.28 (1.09-1.49)
Model 3 (n=2,080)	Reference	1.20 (0.89-1.60)	1.15 (0.85-1.55)	1.71 (1.30-2.26)	<0.001	1.41 (1.17-1.71)
Model 4 (n=2,080)	Reference	1.05 (0.71-1.54)	0.94 (0.58-1.53)	1.30 (0.71-2.38)	0.358	1.41 (1.17-1.71)
Female (n=4,744)						
N	1,186	1,186	1,187	1,185		
Person-years	6,656	6,433	6,360	5,938		
Incident cases (n)	109	110	125	148		
Rate per 1000 person-years	16.38 (13.57-19.76)	17.10 (14.19-20.61)	19.66 (16.49-23.42)	24.93 (21.22-29.28)		
Model 1 (n=4,744)	Reference	1.04 (0.80-1.35)	1.22 (0.94-1.57)	1.56 (1.22-2.00)	<0.001	1.20 (1.09-1.33)
Model 2 (n=4,744)	Reference	1.06 (0.81-1.38)	1.20 (0.93-1.56)	1.43 (1.11-1.84)	0.003	1.16 (1.05-1.28)
Model 3 (n=1,392)	Reference	0.99 (0.59-1.68)	1.11 (0.67-1.86)	1.74 (1.09-2.80)	0.019	1.22 (1.01-1.48)
Model 4 (n=1,392)	Reference	0.97 (0.43-2.17)	1.07 (0.37-3.12)	1.66 (0.42-6.63)	0.264	1.22 (1.01-1.48)

Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years are reported as values with 95% confidence intervals (CI). Hazard ratios (HR) for the risk of incident MAFLD are shown for Models 1-4 with their respective 95% CIs. Cut-offs for quartiles 1-4 of serum ferritin levels in males are as follows: ≤ 88.73 ng/mL, 88.78-123.80 ng/mL, 123.90-169.10 ng/mL and ≥ 169.20 ng/mL respectively. Cut-offs for quartiles 1-4 of serum ferritin levels in females are as follows: ≤ 16.00 ng/mL, 16.02-34.26 ng/mL, 34.27-60.27 ng/mL and ≥ 60.36 ng/mL respectively. Model 1: crude; Model 2: adjusted for age; Model 3: additionally adjusted for smoking status (never, former, and current smokers), alcohol intake (never, moderate, and heavy drinkers) and physical activity (inactive, moderately active, and HEPA active); Model 4: additionally adjusted for log-transformed serum uric acid levels.

Abbreviations: Q, quartile.

Supplementary Table 3. Incidence of MAFLD according to quartiles of serum uric acid levels stratified by age

Age group	Quartile of uric acid				<i>P</i> -value	1 unit increase in <i>ln</i> (uric acid)
	Q1 (lowest)	Q2	Q3	Q4 (highest)		
<40 years (n=2,897)						
N	638	755	732	772		
Person-years	3,661	4,271	4,046	4,034		
Incident cases (n)	51	71	71	140		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	13.9 (10.59-18.33)	16.62 (13.17-20.98)	17.55 (13.91-22.14)	34.71 (29.41-40.96)		
Model 1 (n=7,818)	Reference	1.21 (0.85-1.74)	1.27 (0.88-1.82)	2.59 (1.88-3.57)	<0.001	8.74 (5.75-13.29)
Model 2 (n=7,818)	Reference	1.21 (0.84-1.73)	1.26 (0.88-1.80)	2.55 (1.85-3.52)	<0.001	8.69 (5.69-13.26)
Model 3 (n=3,472)	Reference	1.34 (0.85-2.11)	1.25 (0.79-1.98)	2.65 (1.74-4.03)	<0.001	3.97 (1.89-8.32)
Model 4 (n=3,472)	Reference	1.34 (0.85-2.10)	1.22 (0.77-1.94)	2.55 (1.67-3.88)	<0.001	3.64 (1.74-7.59)
≥40 years (n=4,921)						
N	1,339	1,345	1,148	1,089		
Person-years	7,229	7,216	5,996	5,367		
Incident cases (n)	153	184	177	226		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	21.17 (18.06-24.80)	25.50 (22.07-29.46)	29.52 (25.48-34.21)	42.11 (36.96-47.97)		
Model 1 (n=4,921)	Reference	1.21 (0.97-1.50)	1.41 (1.13-1.75)	2.01 (1.64-2.47)	<0.001	3.23 (2.44-4.28)
Model 2 (n=4,921)	Reference	1.21 (0.98-1.50)	1.41 (1.1-1.75)	2.01 (1.64-2.47)	<0.001	3.20 (2.41-4.24)
Model 3 (n=1,917)	Reference	1.04 (0.75-1.45)	1.33 (0.96-1.84)	2.04 (1.50-2.77)	<0.001	3.89 (2.18-6.93)
Model 4 (n=1,917)	Reference	1.03 (0.74-1.44)	1.30 (0.94-1.80)	1.99 (1.46-2.70)	<0.001	3.70 (2.08-6.60)

Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years are reported as values with 95% confidence intervals (CI). Hazard ratios (HR) for the risk of incident MAFLD are shown for Models 1-4 with their respective 95% CIs. Serum uric acid level quartiles for men are defined as ≤ 5.00 mg/dL for Quartile 1, 5.10-5.70 mg/dL for Quartile 2, 5.80-6.40 mg/dL for Quartile 3, and ≥ 6.50 mg/dL for Quartile 4; for women, the quartiles are defined as ≤ 3.50 mg/dL for Quartile 1, 3.60-4.10 mg/dL for Quartile 2, 4.20-4.60 mg/dL for Quartile 3, and ≥ 4.70 mg/dL for Quartile 4. Model 1: crude; Model 2: adjusted for age and sex; Model 3: additionally, adjusted for smoking status (never, former, and current smokers), alcohol intake (never, moderate, and heavy drinkers) and physical activity (inactive, moderately active, and HEPA active); Model 4: additionally, adjusted for log-transformed serum ferritin levels. Abbreviations: Q, quartile.

Supplementary Table 4. Incidence of MAFLD according to quartiles of serum ferritin levels stratified by age

Age group	Quartile of ferritin				P-value	1 unit increase in <i>ln</i> (ferritin)
	Q1 (lowest)	Q2	Q3	Q4 (highest)		
<40 years (n=2,897)						
N	699	731	752	715		
Person-years	3,974	4,084	4,170	3,784		
Incident cases (n)	64	67	91	111		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	16.10 (12.60-20.57)	16.41 (12.91-20.84)	21.82 (17.77-26.80)	29.34 (24.36-35.33)		
Model 1 (n=7,818)	Reference	1.04 (0.74-1.46)	1.41 (1.02-1.94)	1.95 (1.4-2.66)	<0.001	1.70 (1.51-1.91)
Model 2 (n=7,818)	Reference	1.03 (0.73-1.45)	1.39 (1.01-1.91)	1.91 (1.40-2.61)	<0.001	1.70 (1.51-1.92)
Model 3 (n=3,472)	Reference	1.07 (0.69-1.65)	1.17 (0.77-1.79)	1.70 (1.15-2.53)	0.004	1.33 (1.06-1.68)
Model 4 (n=3,472)	Reference	1.01 (0.58-1.76)	1.08 (0.55-2.11)	1.52 (0.67-3.43)	0.167	1.33 (1.06-1.67)
≥40 years (n=4,921)						
N	1,256	1,224	1,203	1,238		
Person-years	6,934	6,533	6,276	6,064		
Incident cases (n)	174	191	166	209		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	25.09 (21.63-29.11)	29.24 (25.37-33.69)	26.45 (22.72-30.79)	34.47 (30.10-39.47)		
Model 1 (n=4,921)	Reference	1.16 (0.95-1.43)	1.07 (0.87-1.33)	1.40 (1.14-1.71)	0.004	1.24 (1.15-1.34)
Model 2 (n=4,921)	Reference	1.17 (0.95-1.43)	1.07 (0.87-1.33)	1.38 (1.13-1.69)	0.007	1.24 (1.14-1.33)
Model 3 (n=1,917)	Reference	1.21 (0.89-1.66)	1.12 (0.8-1.55)	1.76 (1.30-2.38)	0.001	1.32 (1.11-1.57)
Model 4 (n=1,917)	Reference	1.09 (0.73-1.63)	0.95 (0.57-1.57)	1.40 (0.75-2.59)	0.323	1.32 (1.11-1.57)

Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years are reported as values with 95% confidence intervals (CI). Hazard ratios (HR) for the risk of incident MAFLD are shown for Models 1-4 with their respective 95% CIs. Serum ferritin level quartiles for men are set at ≤ 88.73 ng/mL for Quartile 1, 88.78-123.80 ng/mL for Quartile 2, 123.90-169.10 ng/mL for Quartile 3, and ≥ 169.20 ng/mL for Quartile 4; for women, the levels are ≤ 16.00 ng/mL for Quartile 1, 16.02-34.26 ng/mL for Quartile 2, 34.27-60.27 ng/mL for Quartile 3, and ≥ 60.36 ng/mL for Quartile 4. Model 1: crude; Model 2: adjusted for age and sex; Model 3: additionally, adjusted for smoking status (never, past, or current), alcohol intake (never, moderate, and heavy drinkers) and physical activity (inactive, moderately active, and HEPA active); Model 4: additionally, adjusted for log-transformed serum uric acid levels.

Abbreviations: Q, quartile.

Supplementary Table 5. Incidence of MAFLD according to quartiles of serum uric acid levels stratified by BMI

BMI	Quartile of uric acid				P-value	1 unit increase in <i>ln</i> (uric acid)
	Q1 (lowest)	Q2	Q3	Q4 (highest)		
<23 kg/m ² (n=5,028)						
N	1,396	1,392	1,207	1,033		
Person-years	7,877	7,889	6,664	5,508		
Incident cases (n)	81	94	78	121		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	10.28 (8.27-12.78)	11.92 (9.73-14.59)	11.71 (9.38-14.61)	21.97 (18.38-26.25)		
Model 1 (n=5,028)	Reference	1.17 (0.87-1.57)	1.16 (0.85-1.59)	2.22 (1.67-2.94)	<0.001	7.40 (4.97-11.01)
Model 2 (n=5,028)	Reference	1.19 (0.89-1.61)	1.20 (0.88-1.64)	2.31 (1.74-3.06)	<0.001	7.25 (4.87-10.80)
Model 3 (n=2,246)	Reference	1.26 (0.83-1.91)	1.30 (0.85-1.98)	2.64 (1.77-3.94)	<0.001	4.94 (2.31-10.55)
Model 4 (n=2,246)	Reference	1.23 (0.81-1.87)	1.24 (0.81-1.89)	2.53 (1.70-3.78)	<0.001	4.53 (2.13-9.63)
≥23 kg/m ² (n=2,790)						
N	581	708	673	828		
Person-years	3,013	3,598	3,378	3,893		
Incident cases (n)	123	161	170	245		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	40.83 (34.22-48.72)	44.74 (38.34-52.22)	50.33 (43.30-58.49)	62.93 (55.52-71.32)		
Model 1 (n=2,790)	Reference	1.10 (0.87-1.39)	1.23 (0.97-1.55)	1.55 (1.25-1.92)	<0.001	1.87 (1.40-2.50)
Model 2 (n=2,790)	Reference	1.10 (0.87-1.39)	1.23 (0.98-1.55)	1.56 (1.25-1.93)	<0.001	1.88 (1.40-2.51)
Model 3 (n=1,226)	Reference	0.99 (0.70-1.40)	1.19 (0.85-1.67)	1.47 (1.07-2.01)	0.004	1.91 (1.11-3.30)
Model 4 (n=1,226)	Reference	1.01 (0.71-1.43)	1.20 (0.86-1.69)	1.44 (1.05-1.97)	0.007	1.82 (1.06-3.12)

Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years are reported as values with 95% confidence intervals (CI). Hazard ratios (HR) for the risk of incident MAFLD are shown for Models 1-4 with their respective 95% CIs. Cut-offs for quartiles 1-4 of serum uric acid levels are as follows: ≤5.00 mg/dL, 5.10-5.70 mg/dL, 5.80-6.40 mg/dL and ≥6.50 mg/dL in men; ≤3.50 mg/dL, 3.60-4.10 mg/dL, 4.20-4.60 mg/dL and ≥4.70 mg/dL in women respectively. Model 1: crude; Model 2: adjusted for age and sex; Model 3: additionally adjusted for smoking status (never, former, and current smokers), alcohol intake (never, moderate, and heavy drinkers) and physical activity (inactive, moderately active, and HEPA active); Model 4: additionally adjusted for log-transformed serum ferritin levels.

Abbreviations: Q, quartile.

Supplementary Table 6. Incidence of MAFLD according to quartiles of serum ferritin levels stratified by BMI

BMI	Quartile of ferritin				P-value	1 unit increase in <i>ln</i> (ferritin)
	Q1 (lowest)	Q2	Q3	Q4 (highest)		
<23 kg/m ² (n=5,028)						
N	1,247	1,319	1,274	1,188		
Person-years	7,187	7,427	7,088	6,235		
Incident cases (n)	77	92	91	114		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	10.71 (8.57-13.39)	12.39 (10.10-15.20)	12.84 (10.45-15.77)	18.28 (15.22-21.97)		
Model 1 (n=5,028)	Reference	1.18 (0.87-1.59)	1.25 (0.92-1.69)	1.82 (1.36-2.43)	<0.001	1.73 (1.54-1.95)
Model 2 (n=5,028)	Reference	1.20 (0.89-1.63)	1.26 (0.93-1.71)	1.81 (1.35-2.42)	<0.001	1.71 (1.52-1.93)
Model 3 (n=2,246)	Reference	1.11 (0.73-1.69)	1.18 (0.78-1.80)	1.94 (1.31-2.88)	0.001	1.48 (1.17-1.87)
Model 4 (n=2,246)	Reference	0.92 (0.54-1.56)	0.89 (0.46-1.71)	1.30 (0.58-2.92)	0.348	1.48 (1.17-1.87)
≥23 kg/m ² (n=2,790)						
N	581	708	673	828		
Person-years	3,013	3,598	3,378	3,893		
Incident cases (n)	123	161	170	245		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	40.83 (34.22-48.72)	44.74 (38.34-52.22)	50.33 (43.30-58.49)	62.93 (55.52-71.32)		
Model 1 (n=2,790)	Reference	1.10 (0.87-1.39)	1.23 (0.97-1.55)	1.55 (1.25-1.92)	<0.001	1.87 (1.40-2.50)
Model 2 (n=2,790)	Reference	1.10 (0.87-1.39)	1.23 (0.98-1.55)	1.56 (1.25-1.93)	<0.001	1.88 (1.40-2.51)
Model 3 (n=1,226)	Reference	0.99 (0.70-1.40)	1.19 (0.85-1.67)	1.47 (1.07-2.01)	0.004	1.91 (1.11-3.30)
Model 4 (n=1,226)	Reference	1.01 (0.71-1.43)	1.20 (0.86-1.69)	1.44 (1.05-1.97)	0.007	1.82 (1.06-3.12)

Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years are reported as values with 95% confidence intervals (CI). Hazard ratios (HR) for the risk of incident MAFLD are shown for Models 1-4 with their respective 95% CIs. Cut-offs for quartiles 1-4 of serum ferritin levels are as follows: ≤88.73 ng/mL, 88.78-123.80 ng/mL, 123.90-169.10 ng/mL and ≥169.20 ng/mL in men; ≤16.00 ng/mL, 16.02-34.26 ng/mL, 34.27-60.27 ng/mL and ≥60.36 ng/mL in women respectively. Model 1: crude; Model 2: adjusted for age and sex; Model 3: additionally adjusted for smoking status (never, former, and current smokers), alcohol intake (never, moderate, and heavy drinkers) and physical activity (inactive, moderately active, and HEPA active); Model 4: additionally adjusted for log-transformed serum uric acid levels.

Abbreviations: Q, quartile.

Supplementary Table 7. Incidence of MAFLD according to quartiles of serum uric acid levels using an FLI cut-off ≥ 30

	Quartile of uric acid				<i>P</i> -value	1 unit increase in <i>ln</i> (uric acid) HR (95% CI)
	Q1 (lowest) HR (95% CI)	Q2 HR (95% CI)	Q3 HR (95% CI)	Q4 (highest) HR (95% CI)		
N	1,977	2,100	1,880	1,861		
Person-years	10,247	10,913	9,246	8,409		
Incident cases (n)	386	450	505	647		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	37.67 (34.09-41.62)	41.24 (37.60-45.23)	54.62 (50.05-59.59)	76.94 (71.24-83.11)		
Model 1 (n=7,818)	Reference	1.10 (0.96-1.26)	1.46 (1.28-1.67)	2.07 (1.83-2.35)	<0.001	7.52 (6.32-8.96)
Model 2 (n=7,818)	Reference	1.13 (0.99-1.30)	1.45 (1.27-1.65)	2.10 (1.85-2.39)	<0.001	3.80 (3.02-4.77)
Model 3 (n=3,472)	Reference	1.06 (0.88-1.28)	1.35 (1.12-1.63)	2.14 (1.79-2.55)	<0.001	4.00 (2.87-5.57)
Model 4 (n=3,472)	Reference	1.06 (0.88-1.28)	1.33 (1.11-1.61)	2.09 (1.75-2.50)	<0.001	3.80 (2.73-5.29)

Cut-offs for quartiles 1-4 of serum uric acid levels are as follows: ≤ 5.00 mg/dL, 5.10-5.70 mg/dL, 5.80-6.40 mg/dL and ≥ 6.50 mg/dL in men; ≤ 3.50 mg/dL, 3.60-4.10 mg/dL, 4.20-4.60 mg/dL and ≥ 4.70 mg/dL in women respectively. Model 1: crude; Model 2: adjusted for age and sex; Model 3: additionally adjusted for smoking status (never, former, and current smokers), alcohol intake (never, moderate, and heavy drinkers), and physical activity (inactive, moderately active, and HEPA active); Model 4: additionally adjusted for log-transformed serum ferritin levels. Abbreviations: CI, confidence intervals; HR, hazard ratio; Q, quartile.

Supplementary Table 8. Incidence of MAFLD according to quartiles of serum ferritin levels using an FLI cut-off ≥ 30

	Quartile of ferritin				<i>P</i> -value	1 unit increase in <i>ln</i> (ferritin) HR (95% CI)
	Q1 (lowest)	Q2	Q3	Q4 (highest)		
	HR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)		
N	1,955	1,955	1,955	1,953		
Person-years	10,246	9,895	9,711	8,963		
Incident cases (n)	438	467	489	594		
Incidence rates per 1,000 person-years	42.75 (38.93-46.95)	47.20 (43.10-51.68)	50.35 (46.08-55.02)	66.27 (61.15-71.82)		
Model 1 (n=7,818)	Reference	1.10 (0.97-1.26)	1.20 (1.05-1.36)	1.58 (1.40-1.79)	<0.001	1.62 (1.54-1.71)
Model 2 (n=7,818)	Reference	1.11 (0.98-1.27)	1.21 (1.06-1.37)	1.59 (1.41-1.80)	<0.001	1.27 (1.19-1.35)
Model 3 (n=3,472)	Reference	1.10 (0.91-1.31)	1.13 (0.95-1.36)	1.60 (1.35-1.90)	<0.001	1.26 (1.14-1.39)
Model 4 (n=3,472)	Reference	1.08 (0.85-1.36)	1.11 (0.83-1.47)	1.55 (1.09-2.19)	0.005	1.26 (1.14-1.39)

Cut-offs for quartiles 1-4 of serum ferritin levels are as follows: ≤ 88.73 ng/mL, 88.78-123.80 ng/mL, 123.90-169.10 ng/mL and ≥ 169.20 ng/mL in men; ≤ 16.00 ng/mL, 16.02-34.26 ng/mL, 34.27-60.27 ng/mL and ≥ 60.36 ng/mL in women respectively. Model 1: crude; Model 2: adjusted for age and sex; Model 3: additionally adjusted for smoking status (never, past, or current), alcohol intake (never, moderate, and heavy drinkers), and physical activity (inactive, moderately active, and HEPA active); Model 4: additionally, adjusted for log-transformed serum uric acid levels. Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; Q, quartile.

Supplementary Table 9. Combined associations of serum uric acid and serum ferritin levels with incident MAFLD using an FLI cut-off ≥ 30

		Quartile of uric acid			
		Q1 (lowest)	Q2	Q3	Q4 (highest)
		HR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)
Quartile of ferritin	Q1 (lowest)	Reference	1.14 (0.77-1.69)	1.01 (0.67-1.52)	1.45 (0.98-2.14)
	Q2	1.16 (0.80-1.68)	1.19 (0.81-1.74)	1.03 (0.69-1.52)	1.49 (1.02-2.17)
	Q3	1.32 (0.90-1.96)	1.32 (0.91-1.93)	1.56 (1.08-2.26)	1.95 (1.36-2.79)
	Q4 (highest)	1.77 (1.20-2.61)	2.17 (1.49-3.14)	2.35 (1.65-3.36)	3.23 (2.31-4.51)

Cut-offs for quartiles 1-4 of serum uric acid levels are as follows: ≤ 5.00 mg/dL, 5.10-5.70 mg/dL, 5.80-6.40 mg/dL and ≥ 6.50 mg/dL in men; ≤ 3.50 mg/dL, 3.60-4.10 mg/dL, 4.20-4.60 mg/dL and ≥ 4.70 mg/dL in women respectively. Cut-offs for quartiles 1-4 of serum ferritin levels are as follows: ≤ 88.73 ng/mL, 88.78-123.80 ng/mL, 123.90-169.10 ng/mL and ≥ 169.20 ng/mL in men; ≤ 16.00 ng/mL, 16.02-34.26 ng/mL, 34.27-60.27 ng/mL and ≥ 60.36 ng/mL in women respectively. Individuals in the lowest quartile of both serum uric acid and ferritin levels are used as the reference group. The model is adjusted for sex, age, smoking status (never, past, or current), alcohol intake (never, moderate, and heavy drinkers), physical activity (inactive, moderately active, and HEPA active). Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; Q, quartile.