

**Supplement Table 1. Characteristics of the study subjects**

	Healthy donors	AS patients
Number	28	22
Age (year)	30.2±10.1	34.8±12.8
Male no.(%)	18 (64.3%)	15 (68.2%)
HLA-B27 positive no.(%)	0	21 (95.5%) *
Disease duration (year)	NA	7.02±6.2
CRP (mg/L)	3.1±1.3	18.6±13.2*
ESR (mm/h)	10.1±3.3	27.5±14.9*
BASDAI	0.95±0.86	4.69±1.01*
<b>Treatment options</b>		
NSAIDs	0	10
TNF- $\alpha$ inhibitor	0	7
NSAIDs+DMARDs	0	5

Mean±SD. AS, ankylosing spondylitis; HLA-B27, human leukocyte antigen B27; CRP, C-reactive protein; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; BASDAI, the bath ankylosing spondylitis disease activity index; \* indicates P< 0.05 compared to healthy donors.