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1 Features of the metabolic syndrome in late adolescence are associated with impaired testicular
2 function at 20 years of age.

3 **Short title** Metabolic syndrome and testicular function

4
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30

31
32 **Abstract**

33 **Study question:** Are early signs of metabolic disorder in late adolescence associated with features of
34 impaired testicular function many years before the majority are seeking parenthood?

35 **Summary answer:** Adolescents with features of metabolic disorder, as manifest by ultrasound
36 evidence of non-alcoholic fatty liver (NAFL) at 17 years or systemic markers of inflammation, and/or
37 insulin resistance measured by homeostasis model of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) at 20 years of
38 age, have reduced testicular volume, total sperm output, serum testosterone (T) and inhibin B (inhB)
39 concentrations and a higher serum follicle stimulating hormone concentration (FSH), at 20 years of
40 age, in comparison to their peers without metabolic disorder.

41 **What is known already:** Controversial evidence suggests a recent decline in sperm production
42 potentially linked to environmental influences, but its cause remains unclear. The concomitant
43 increases in obesity and diabetes suggests that lifestyle factors may contribute to this decline in
44 testicular function. Although obesity has been associated with adverse testicular function in some
45 studies, it remains unclear whether poor testicular function reflects, or causes, poor metabolic health.
46 If metabolic disorder were present in adolescence, prior to the onset of obesity, this may suggest that
47 metabolic disorder may lead to impaired testicular function

48 **Study design, size, duration:** The Western Australian Pregnancy Cohort (Raine) Study is a
49 longitudinal study of children born in 1989-1991 who have undergone detailed physical assessments
50 since birth (1454 male infants born). The purpose of this current sub-study was to perform a testicular
51 assessment at 20 years of age (913 were contactable).

52 At 17 years of age 490 underwent a hepatic ultrasound examination, serum cytokine assessment
53 (n=520) and a metabolic assessment (n=544). A further metabolic assessment was performed at 20
54 years (n=608). Testicular assessment was performed on 20 year participants who consented to
55 inclusion; 609 had reproductive hormones measured, 404 underwent a testicular ultrasound and 365
56 produced a semen sample.

57 **Participants/materials, setting, methods:** Testicular volume was estimated by ultrasonography, and
58 semen analysis performed by WHO methods. Serum was analysed to determine concentrations of

59 luteinising hormone (LH), FSH, inhB by immunoassays and T by liquid chromatography-mass
60 spectrometry (LC-MS).

61 At 17 years of age a liver ultrasound examination was performed to determine the presence of NAFL,
62 and serum analysed for the following cytokines; interleukin-18 (IL18), soluble tumour necrosis factor
63 receptor 1 & 2 (sTNFR1, sTNFR2) concentrations.

64 At 17 and 20 years of age fasting blood samples were analysed for serum liver enzymes, insulin,
65 glucose, triglycerides (TG), total cholesterol, high density lipoprotein (HDL) and low density lipoprotein
66 (LDL) cholesterol, high sensitivity (hs) CRP, and uric acid. HOMA was calculated and insulin
67 resistance (IR) was defined by a HOMA >4, anthropometric data was collected and dual energy X-ray
68 absorptiometry (DEXA) measurement was performed for lean and total fat mass. As at this young age
69 the prevalence of metabolic syndrome was expected to be low, a two-step cluster analysis was used
70 using waist circumference, TGs, insulin, and systolic blood pressure to derive a distinct high-risk
71 group with features consistent with the metabolic syndrome.

72 **Main results and the role of chance:** Men who at age 17 years were at elevated cardiometabolic
73 risk had lower concentrations of T (medians: 4.0ng/ml vs 4.9ng/ml) and inhB (medians: 193.2pg/ml vs
74 221.9pg/ml) ($p<0.001$ for both) compared to those within the low risk metabolic cluster. Furthermore,
75 men with ultrasound evidence of NAFLD detected at 17 years ($n=45$, 9.8%) had reduced total sperm
76 output (medians: 68.0 million vs 126.00 million, $p=0.044$), T (4.0ng/ml vs 4.7ng/ml, $p=0.005$) and inhB
77 (209.1pg/ml vs 218.4pg/ml, $p=0.032$) concentrations at 20 years compared to men without NAFLD..

78 Men with higher concentrations of sTNFR1, at 17 years of age, had a lower sperm output and seminal
79 volume, and serum concentrations of inhB, with an increase in LH and FSH at 20 years of age (all
80 $p<0.05$ after adjustment for age, body mass index [BMI], abstinence and a history of cryptorchidism
81 and varicocele, cigarette smoking, alcohol and drug use). Similarly, serum T was lower in men with a
82 higher fasting serum insulin, hsCRP, HOMA and total fat mass, and higher in men with higher fasting
83 HDL, iron at 20 years of age (all $p<0.05$). Multivariable regression analysis, adjusting for age and BMI
84 at 20 years, cryptorchidism and presence of a varicocele examined the associations between NAFLD
85 (at 17 years), and HOMA-IR >4 and metabolic cluster (at 20 years) with reproductive hormone
86 concentrations at age 20 years, demonstrated that men in the high-risk metabolic cluster at 20 years

87 had a lower serum T and inhB (both $p=0.012$), and HOMA-IR >4 was associated with a lower serum T
88 ($p=0.002$), .

89 **Limitations, reasons for caution:** This study is limited by the sample size and multiple comparisons,
90 and causality cannot be proven from an observational study. Due to a three year interval between
91 some metabolic assessments and assessment of testicular function, we cannot exclude an
92 introduction of a bias into the study, as some of the participants and their testicular function will not
93 have been fully mature at the 17 year assessment.

94 **Wider implications of the findings:** Irrespective of a proven causation, our study findings are
95 important in that a significant minority of the men, prior to seeking parenthood, presented co-existent
96 features of metabolic disorder and signs of testicular impairment. Of particular note is that the
97 presence of NAFLD at 17 years of age, although only present in a minority of men, was associated
98 with an almost 50% reduction in sperm output at 20 years of age, and that the presence of IR at 20
99 years was associated with a 20% reduction in testicular volume.

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103 and Edith Cowan University.

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111 Besins Healthcare and has provided expert testimony to anti-doping tribunals and for testosterone
112 litigation.

113

114 **Key words:** Raine, metabolic, testicular function, semen, reproductive hormones, testicular volume.

115

117 **Introduction**

118 There is an on-going debate in reproductive medicine as to whether there has been a general decline
119 in sperm production in recent times, potentially linked to environmental influences (1-3). The parallel
120 increase in the rates of lifestyle related disorders, such as obesity and diabetes (4), raises the
121 possibility that lifestyle factors may contribute to any potential decline in sperm production. In
122 populations of men seeking fertility treatment, obesity has been associated with adverse testicular
123 function; such as reduced testicular volume, seminal volume, sperm output, sperm motility, serum
124 testosterone concentration and sperm DNA damage (5-9), although this has been challenged (10).

125
126 The metabolic syndrome is a cluster of adverse cardiovascular features including central obesity,
127 atherogenic dyslipidemia, insulin resistance, a prothrombotic state, elevated blood pressure and
128 increased circulating proinflammatory markers. Some evidence exists for an association between the
129 metabolic syndrome and impaired testicular function in sub-fertile men (9, 11). However, causality is
130 unclear whether these disorders have a common origin in early life (12), or whether impaired
131 testicular function may induce or result from the metabolic disorder.

132
133 With the increase in the prevalence of features of the metabolic syndrome in adolescent populations
134 (13), many will have ultrasound evidence of a fatty liver (14). Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
135 (NAFLD) is the most prevalent chronic liver disorder, affecting almost 1 in 5 adolescents (15), and is a
136 recognized antecedent of progressive liver disease and cardiometabolic disorder (16).
137 Hyperinsulinemia, or the presence of a fatty liver (17), is associated with a reduction in hepatic
138 synthesis of sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG), increasing the metabolic clearance of
139 testosterone.

140
141 The metabolic syndrome is associated with a low grade inflammatory state, with increased C-reactive
142 protein (CRP) and production of inflammatory cytokines, such as, Interleukin- 6 (IL-6), tumour
143 necrosis factor - α (TNF- α), and their receptors 1 and 2 (TNFR1 and TNFR2), and the production of
144 oxygen free radicals, all of which may impair sperm and testicular function (18, 19). We therefore
145 proposed that impaired testicular function may reflect or cause poor metabolic health.

146

147 Our study was driven by the question; whether or not in a young adult population, representative of
148 the Western Australian population (20), early signs of metabolic disorder are associated with a profile
149 of impaired testicular function, many years before the majority of men seek paternity. Hence our aim
150 was to relate antecedent and concurrent markers of adverse cardiometabolic health, in adolescence
151 and early adulthood, to markers of testicular function within men at 20 years of age from the Western
152 Australian Pregnancy Cohort (Raine) Study.

153

154 **Materials and Methods**

155 *The Raine study*

156 The Raine Study (www.rainestudy.org.au) was designed to measure the relationships between early
157 life events and subsequent health and behaviour. The study recruited 2900 women around 18 weeks
158 of gestation in 1989-91 (20, 21). 2868 children (including 1454 boys) born to 2804 mothers were
159 retained to form the Raine Study cohort, and were studied every 2-3 years into early adulthood,
160 including detailed cardiometabolic assessment at 17 and 20 years of age, and 423 men underwent
161 testicular assessment by ultrasound and / or semen examinations (20, 22). Ethical approval was
162 obtained from the University of Western Australia Human Research Ethics Committee, and all
163 participants provided informed written consent for all aspects of the study.

164

165 ***Testicular function assessment***

166 *Clinical and testicular function assessment at 20 years of age*

167 All male cohort members were invited to attend follow-up, which involved questionnaires, collection of
168 anthropometric data (n=687), and collection of blood for analysis of serum testosterone, luteinizing
169 hormone (LH), FSH and inhB concentrations (n=609). A testicular ultrasound examination was
170 performed (n=404), and a semen sample (n=365) analysed at Fertility Specialists of Western
171 Australia, as previously reported (22). Semen samples were analysed as per WHO semen manual
172 guidelines (23) including sperm concentrations (million per ml), total sperm output (million per
173 ejaculate), motility (%A grade + %B grade) and morphology. The sperm chromatin structural assay
174 (SCSA) was performed as described (24) with slight modifications. The DNA fragmentation index
175 represents the percentage of sperm within the sample with fragmented or damaged DNA. Serum inhB
176 concentration was measured by Gen II ELISA (Beckman Coulter Inc. Brea, CA); LH and FSH were

177 measured by ELISA (IBL International, Hamburg, Germany), and testosterone was measured by
178 liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) as described (25) (for further details
179 refer to supplementary methods [sM]). Testicular ultrasonography was performed as described (22),
180 and the volume of each testis calculated (26). Varicocele was defined as present when the maximal
181 venous diameter was over 3mm, and increased with the Valsalva manoeuver (27).

182

183 **Metabolic assessments**

184 *1. Metabolic assessment at 17 years of age*

185 *a. Hepatic ultrasound*

186 The methods of hepatic ultrasound examinations conducted among 587 cohort members at age 17
187 years for diagnosing NAFL have been reported previously, and the data was used in this study (sM)]
188 (14).

189 *b. Cytokine assessment*

190 The serum from 520 cohort members was stored at -80 C and was analysed for the following
191 cytokines; interleukin-18 (IL18) by ELISA, soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor 1 & 2 (sTNFR1,
192 sTNFR2). Plasma IL-18 was quantitated with a commercially available ELISA method. Plasma
193 sTNFR1 and sTNFR2 were quantified using cytometric Bead Array. Individual cytokine concentrations
194 were determined using FCAP Array software (BD Biosciences) (sM).

195

196 *c. Cardiometabolic assessment*

197 Data from previous publication (13) was extracted for the fasting blood samples from 549 cohort
198 members which were analysed at the PathWest Laboratory at Royal Perth Hospital for serum liver
199 enzymes, insulin, glucose, triglycerides (TG), total cholesterol, HDL and LDL cholesterol, hsCRP, and
200 uric acid, as previously described (13, 29), excluding serum hsCRP concentrations >10mg/l (13, 29).
201 Glucose, insulin, total cholesterol and triglycerides were measured by automated analysers (sM).
202 HOMA was calculated by fasting insulin (microunits per milliliter) × fasting glucose (millimoles per
203 liter)]/22.5, and insulin resistance (IR) was defined by a HOMA >4 (30). Resting blood pressure (BP)
204 readings were taken (sM). The cardiometabolic data was used to derive a 'high risk metabolic cluster'
205 phenotyped previously in this cohort (13), and described below.

206

207 2. *Cardiometabolic assessment at 20 years of age*

208 Fasting blood samples from 620 cohort members at 20 years of age were analysed according to the
209 same protocol for the 17 year cardiometabolic assessment. To assess body fat distribution DEXA
210 measurement was performed (31, 32).

211

212

213 **Statistical Considerations**

214 *Derivation of metabolic cluster at 20 years of age*

215 The two most frequently used definitions of the metabolic syndrome in adulthood are the National
216 Cholesterol Education Program expert panel on detection, evaluation, and treatment of high blood
217 cholesterol in adults (NCEP ATP-III) (33), and the International Diabetes Federation definition (IDF)
218 (34), which differ significantly on the components of their definition (see details in sM). Hence, as
219 there is no universally accepted definition, and it was expected that at this young age the prevalence
220 of metabolic syndrome would be low, an alternative approach, a two-step cluster analysis was used
221 (13, 35, 36). This is an effective tool used to define groups accounting for variables for where there is
222 strong evidence of clustering. Within a single cluster, the subjects are relatively homogeneous,
223 sharing similar traits and being dissimilar to subjects in other clusters. The technique uses a scalable
224 cluster analysis algorithm (37), designed specifically to handle large data sets and has been used
225 previously within this cohort (13, 35, 36). It preselects subjects into sub-clusters before further
226 grouping into the desired number of clusters with use of log-likelihood distance. The cluster groups
227 were formed with use of; waist circumference, TGs, insulin, and systolic BP measured at 20 years of
228 age to derive distinct high-risk group with features consistent with the metabolic syndrome. This
229 approach was used previously to identify those Raine study participants within a high risk metabolic
230 cluster at 17 years of age (13).

231

232 *Data analysis*

233 Continuous data were summarized using medians and inter-quartile ranges (IQR), reported as Q1–
234 Q3, when following a non-Gaussian distribution. Categorical data were summarized using frequency
235 distributions. Multivariable linear regression analysis was used to examine associations between
236 metabolic parameters and reproductive outcomes or hormone concentrations. Covariate adjustments

237 included abstinence, history of cryptorchidism, varicoceles and BMI. Regression results were
238 summarized using standardised coefficients (β) and their 95% confidence intervals (CI). Effects of the
239 metabolic parameters on outcomes were presented without (β_1) and with (β_2) adjustment for BMI.
240 Supplementary analyses adjusting for waist circumference instead of BMI were performed with
241 analogous results (data not shown). Reproductive outcomes had a non-Gaussian distribution, and
242 were transformed to normality either via logarithmic or power transformations determined using the
243 Box-Cox analysis.

244

245 Differences in reproductive parameters and hormone concentrations across low and high risk
246 metabolic clusters, HOMA-IR, NAFLD, insulin and hsCRP were investigated univariately using Mann-
247 Whitney test for two groups. When appropriate univariable analyses were supplemented with
248 multivariable analyses to control for confounders age and BMI at 20 years, cryptorchidism and
249 presence of a varicocele. All hypothesis tests were two-sided and p -values of <0.05 were considered
250 statistically significant. No adjustments for multiple hypothesis testing were made in this exploratory
251 study (38, 39). SPSS (version 22.0, IBM SPSS) statistical software was used for data analysis.

252

253 **Results**

254 *Demographics*

255 Of 913 male cohort members who were contactable, 365 (40%) provided a semen sample and
256 represented 48% of the men who attended any of the assessments at 20 years of age and 404
257 underwent a testicular ultrasound and 609 had serum available for reproductive hormone assessment
258 (Table 1). Most (587) had undergone a liver ultrasound at 17 years of age and/or a fasting metabolic
259 assessment (544), and up to 608 had undergone some aspect of metabolic assessment at age 20
260 years of age (Table 2). Participants who took part in the testicular assessment (semen sample and/or
261 testicular ultrasound) were similar clinically to those that declined participation (Table 2). There was
262 no difference between the participants and the non-participants with respect to markers of socio-
263 economic status (data not shown SM). The prevalence of metabolic syndrome among males within
264 the participants was 4.1% by the NCEP-ATPIII definition (40) and 5.4% using the IDF definition (34).

265

266 *Associations between markers of metabolic disorder and testicular parameters*

267

268 *Metabolic indices at 17 years.*

269 Multivariable linear regression analysis adjusting for current age, abstinence, a history of
270 cryptorchidism, presence of a varicocele, and BMI revealed the association of semen parameters with
271 markers of systemic inflammation at 17 years of age: total sperm output was reduced in men at 20
272 years of age who had a higher serum IL18 ($p=0.025$), or sTNFR1 ($p=0.036$) and their sperm
273 concentration was negatively associated with their serum IL18 concentration ($p=0.020$) measured at
274 17 years (Table 3A). In addition higher sTNFR1 was negatively associated with inhibin B ($p=0.011$),
275 and positively associated with serum LH and FSH ($p=0.015$, and $p=0.001$ respectively) three years
276 later (Table 4). When adjustment was performed for waist circumference instead of BMI the results
277 were analogous (data not shown). We have previously shown that alcohol use, cigarette smoking and
278 recreational drug use in this cohort had no influence on markers of testicular function (22), and that
279 testicular volume was positively associated with height, and total soft and lean body mass(12)

280

281 *Associations between metabolic cluster analysis at 17 years and subsequent testicular function at 20*
282 *years of age*

283 At 17 years of age 70 of 439 participants (15.9%) who would subsequently undergo the male
284 reproductive assessment were clustered within the high metabolic risk group.

285

286 In an unadjusted analysis of the reproductive hormones of men within the high risk metabolic cluster
287 at 17 years of age, had median T and inhB concentrations significantly lower ($p<0.001$ for both), in
288 comparison to the men within the low risk metabolic cluster (Table 5).

289

290 *Metabolic indices at 20 years.*

291 After adjustment for age, abstinence, a history of cryptorchidism, varicocele and BMI; diastolic blood
292 pressure and serum insulin at 20 years of age were negatively associated with testicular volume
293 ($p=0.028$ and $p=0.004$ respectively), although diastolic blood pressure was positively associated with
294 total sperm output ($p=0.020$) and seminal volume ($p=0.014$). ALT and GGT were positively associated
295 with sperm morphology ($p=0.008$ and $p=0.028$ respectively) (Table 3A).

296

297 Associations between markers of metabolic disorder at 20 years of age and sex hormones

298 Multivariable regression analyses with adjustment for history of cryptorchidism and presence of a
299 varicocele shown that serum total testosterone (TT) was reduced in men with a higher fasting serum;
300 triglycerides, insulin, hsCRP, ferritin, ALT, HOMA score, and DEXA indices of fat when measured
301 concurrently at 20 years of age (Table 4) (all $p < 0.05$). Serum TT was positively associated with serum
302 HDL cholesterol, iron and transferrin saturation (all $p < 0.05$). After simultaneous adjustment for BMI
303 (and waist circumference-data not shown) positive associations with serum HDL, iron, transferrin
304 saturation and lean mass remained and a negative association with hsCRP and serum insulin
305 remained (all $p < 0.05$).

306

307 Associations between metabolic cluster analysis at 20 years of age and testicular function

308 The number of men in the high risk metabolic cluster at 20 years of age, those insulin resistant as
309 measured by the HOMA score and with NAFL, varied within the analyses due to the varying number
310 of participants who took part in the various sub-studies (Table 1).

311

312 In an unadjusted analysis of the men within the high risk metabolic cluster at 20 years of age, their
313 median T and inhB concentrations were lower than men within the low risk metabolic cluster (Table
314 5, supplementary figures [sF] 1a and 1b).

315

316 Associations between HOMA as a proxy for IR at 20 years of age and testicular function

317 IR (as defined by a $HOMA > 4$) was present in 24 out of 616 men (3.9%) at 20 years of age. In an
318 unadjusted analysis, in comparison to those participants who were not IR, their median testicular
319 volume was smaller, and median T and inhB concentrations were lower, and their median serum FSH
320 concentration was higher (Table 6, sF2a-d). Furthermore the 51 men, out of 609 (8.4%), who had a
321 fasting serum insulin greater than $10 \mu\text{U/ml}$ (91st centile), at 20 years of age had lower median serum
322 T and inhB concentrations, and their FSH concentration was greater (supplementary table [sT]1,
323 sF3a-c).

324

325 Associations between presence of NAFLD at 17 years of age and subsequent testicular function

326 Ultrasound evidence of NAFLD was present in 44 men, out of 458 (9.6%) who subsequently
327 underwent some assessment of testicular function. Compared to those participants without NAFLD,
328 there were reductions in their; median total sperm output, serum T and inhB concentrations (sT2 and
329 sF4a-c).

330

331 *Associations between serum hsCRP either; above or below, the 75% percentile at 20 years of age*
332 *and testicular function*

333 Men whose serum hsCRP was greater than the 75% centile (1.62mg/l) at 20 years of age (after
334 exclusion of concentrations >10mg/l), in comparison to those below, had a reduction in their median
335 seminal volume, serum T, LH and FSH concentrations (sT3, sF5a-d).

336

337 *Multivariable analysis*

338 Multivariable analysis demonstrated that being in the high risk metabolic cluster at 20 years of age
339 was associated with a lower serum testosterone and inhB, and HOMA-IR >4 was associated with a
340 lower serum testosterone concentration at 20 years (sT4).

341

342 **Discussion**

343 The findings of this observational study of adult men at 20 years of age, demonstrated that despite
344 the majority of men being of normal weight, a small minority already displayed features of metabolic
345 disturbance which are associated with adverse cardiovascular outcomes at a much older age. Men
346 with features of the metabolic syndrome, or who were IR at 20 years of age, or had ultrasound
347 evidence of NAFLD at 17 years of age, displayed a picture consistent with a degree of primary
348 hypogonadism as they had reductions in testicular volume, sperm output, and serum testosterone and
349 inhB, with a reciprocal increase in serum FSH at 20 years of age. All of these variables are well
350 established as adverse markers of reproductive potential (2, 22). Furthermore in considering potential
351 mechanisms for the observed finding it is possible there are contrasting influences of metabolic
352 disorder as; higher concentrations of the inflammatory markers sTNFR1 (and IL18 to a lesser
353 degree), when measured at 17 years were associated with subsequent reductions in sperm output,
354 seminal volume, sperm concentration, inhB, with reciprocal rises in LH and FSH, at 20 years of age,
355 suggesting a direct gonadotoxic effect of adolescent inflammation on subsequent testicular function,

356 and in contrast higher concentrations of hsCRP at 20 years of age had a potential central negative
357 influence on serum FSH secretion (and LH to a lesser degree), inducing a central hypogonadal state
358 with reductions in serum testosterone and seminal volume, however without a concomitant reduction
359 in hB and testicular volume, these could be chance associations.

360

361 One can speculate that if their cardiometabolic picture deteriorates over time, their testicular function
362 might further deteriorate, leading to an adverse effect on their reproductive potential. Conversely if
363 their metabolic picture improves, this may have a positive impact on their reproductive potential,
364 although. it is interesting to note that already at 20 years of age, irrespective of BMI, the markers of
365 cardiometabolic disorder; a higher fasting serum insulin, triglycerides, hsCRP, HOMA score and
366 DEXA fat mass were negatively associated with the testicular hormones; serum testosterone and
367 in hB, concentrations, while a higher total lean mass, serum HDL cholesterol and iron stores were
368 positively associated with these hormones. These findings offer a potential link between metabolic
369 and reproductive health, in that these adverse metabolic features recorded at 17 and 20 years of age
370 may predispose a man to later impaired testicular function, irrespective of adiposity. Although the
371 direction of causality will require further investigation, as it is established that a low circulating
372 testosterone is associated with cardiometabolic disorder (41-43). However, data from one prospective
373 study suggests that a low serum testosterone may be a risk marker for the development of
374 cardiometabolic disorder, rather than a causative risk factor (44). Due to a three year interval between
375 some metabolic assessments and assessment of testicular function, we cannot exclude an
376 introduction of a bias into the study, as some of the participants and their testicular function will not
377 have been fully mature at the 17 year assessment, and it is known that pubertal maturation can have
378 a moderating impact on obesity associated inflammation (45). Irrespective of a proven causation, our
379 study findings are important in that a significant minority of the men, prior to seeking parenthood,
380 presented with some features of metabolic disorder and signs of testicular impairment.

381

382 These study findings warrant further study in other cohorts. Of particular note is that the presence of
383 NAFLD at aged 17 years of age, although only present in a minority of men, was associated with an
384 almost 50% reduction in sperm output at 20 years of age, and that the presence of IR at 20 years was

385 associated with; a 20% reduction in testicular volume, a 30% reduction in serum testosterone, and a
386 20% reduction in serum inhB concentrations.

387

388 **Conclusion**

389 This study has demonstrated an association of adverse cardiometabolic features with impaired
390 testicular function at 20 years of age. Furthermore, it is notable that, despite the majority of the young
391 men having apparently normal metabolic function, a significant minority were already showing some
392 features of the metabolic syndrome.

393

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406

407

408
409 **Author contributions (supplementary data on line)**
410
411

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533

Supplementary Methods on line

Hepatic ultrasound examination

Ultrasonographers experienced in hepatic ultrasound performed the ultrasound examinations, as described (14), according to the protocol described by Hamaguchi (28), which provides 92% sensitivity and 100% specificity for the histological diagnosis of fatty liver (14). Boys with sonographic fatty liver and a self-reported weekly alcohol intake of less than 140g over the previous 12 months were classified as having NAFLD. Testing for hepatitis B or C virus infections was not performed due to low notification rates for these infections in local teenagers during the study period (14).

Sex hormone measurement; Serum inhibin B concentrations were measured in duplicate by Inhibin B Gen II ELISA from Beckman Coulter Inc. (Brea, CA), which had a limit of detection of 2.6 pg/ml. Luteinising hormone (LH), follicular stimulating hormone (FSH) levels were determined in duplicate using ELISA kits from IBL International, Hamburg, Germany. The limit of detection of the LH assay was 0.4 IU/L (calibrated against WHO IRP 80/552), while for FSH assay it was 0.2 IU/L (calibrated against NIBSC 92/510). The intra-assay precision (CV) of the ELISAs ranged from 8-11% based on the mean values for low and high value quality control samples from n=16-17 assays.

Measurement of serum inflammatory markers;

Cytokine assessment

The serum from 520 cohort members was stored at -80 C and was analysed for the following cytokines; interleukin-18 (IL18) by ELISA (Medical Biological Laboratories, Nagoya, Japan), soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor 1 & 2 (sTNFR1, sTNFR2). Plasma IL-18 was quantitated with a commercially available ELISA method (Medical Biological Laboratories, Nagoya, Japan). Plasma sTNFR1 and sTNFR2 were quantified using cytometric Bead Array (CBA) Flex sets (BD PharMingen, San Diego, CA) on the BD FACSAarray™ bioanalyser (BD Biosciences, San Jose, California, USA). Procedures followed the manufacturer's recommendations. Individual cytokine concentrations were determined using FCAP Array software (BD Biosciences). The IL-18: Intra- and inter-assay coefficients of variation (CV) were 5.6% and 7.6%, respectively, with a sensitivity: 12.5 pg/ml.

c. Cardiometabolic assessment

Fasting blood samples from 454 cohort members were analysed at the PathWest Laboratory at Royal Perth Hospital for serum liver enzymes, insulin, glucose, triglycerides (TG), total cholesterol, high density lipoprotein (HDL) and low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, high sensitivity (hs) CRP, and uric acid, as previously described (14, 31), excluding serum hsCRP concentrations >10mg/l (14, 31). Glucose was measured by an automated Technicon Axon analyser (Bayer Diagnostics, Sydney, Australia) using a hexokinase method. Insulin was measured by automated radioimmunoassay (Tosoh, Tokyo, Japan). Total cholesterol and triglycerides were determined enzymatically on the Cobas MIRA analyzer (Roche Diagnostics) with reagents from Trace Scientific (Melbourne, Australia) (supplementary methods).

The intra-assay CV was 0.87% for total cholesterol, 1.92% for triglycerides, 1.04% for glucose, 1.78%. The intra- and inter-assay CV for insulin was 2.5%, sensitivity: 0.9 ng/ml. For leptin the intra and inter-assay CV were 3.3% and 5.4%, respectively, with a sensitivity of 7.8 pg/mL.

Resting blood pressure (BP) readings were taken using an oscillometric sphygmomanometer (DINAMAP vital signs monitor 8100, DINAMAP XL vital signs monitor, or DINAMAP ProCare 100), Soma Technology Bloomfield, Connecticut) with the subject seated. The monitor was set to automatically record readings every 2 minutes and the mean of the second and third readings was calculated.

Sociodemographic assessment

Family income when children were aged 14 years was obtained by questionnaire from the primary caregiver, and the highest maternal education was obtained by questionnaire when children were aged 8 years (20).

The commonest definitions of metabolic syndrome

The NCEP ATP III guidelines state that the metabolic syndrome may be diagnosed when a person has three or more of five components: central obesity (waist circumference), an elevated TG level, a reduced HDL-cholesterol level, an elevated BP or an elevated fasting glucose concentration (35). The

IDF definition requires a person to have central obesity plus any two of four additional factors: a raised TG level: a reduced HDL-cholesterol: a raised BP or a raised fasting plasma glucose (known type 2 diabetes) (36).

Supplementary tables on-line

Supplementary Table 1. Comparison of testicular volume, semen parameters and serum hormones by serum insulin concentration above or below 10 μ u/ml, all assessments made at 20 years of age. Data are represented as Median (IQR, R).

Variables of interest	N _{High}	Insulin \geq 10 μ u/ml	N _{Normal}	Insulin < 10 μ u/ml	p-value
Testicular volume (ml)	28	14.8 (12.5-16.6, 10.0-23.8)	345	15.1 (12.7-17.3, 7.6-28.4)	0.646
Semen parameters					
Volume (ml)	22	2.9 (1.6-4.1, 0.8-7.2)	317	2.8 (2.0-3.7, 0.1-11.0)	0.799
Total sperm output (M)	22	134.4 (44.3-239.0, 0-436)	317	110.5 (51.6-206.8, 0.0-927.5)	0.578
Sperm concentration (M/ml)	22	45.5 (19.1-84.5, 0-160)	317	45.0 (22.5-70.5, 0-220)	0.795
SCSA (%)	21	2.9 (1.6-5.0, 1.1-10.8)	311	3.1 (1.8-5.2, 0.2-30.0)	0.658
Morphology (N, %)	21	6.0 (3.5-9.0, 2-17)	307	5 (3-7, 0-18)	0.159
Motility (a + b, %)	21	54.0 (44.5-69.0, 19-79)	314	58 (43-67, 1-88)	0.907
Serum hormones					
Testosterone (ng/mL)	51	3.6 (2.9-4.8, 1.1-7.1)	556	4.7 (3.7-5.9, 1.3-10.3)	<0.001
LH (IU/l)	51	9.9 (7.5-12.9, 5.6-18.8)	557	10.5 (8.3-13.1, 2.3-28.4)	0.287
FSH (IU/l)	51	5.2 (3.3-7.3, 1.1-25.8)	557	4.2 (2.9-6.0, 0.6-39.5)	0.018
InhB (pg/ml)	51	174.0 (136.7-222.3, 28.9-389.3)	558	218.6 (176.8-268.9, 4.5-543.9)	<0.001

Supplementary Table 2. Comparison of testicular volume, semen parameters and serum testicular hormones and gonadotrophins, assessed at 20 years of age, by ultrasound evidence of NAFLD, at 17 years of age. Data is represented as Median (IQR, R).

Outcome	N _{NAFLD}	NAFLD	N _{Normal}	No NAFLD	p-value
Testicular volume (ml)	28	15.0 (12.6-17.2, 10.5-23.2)	270	14.8 (12.6-17.3, 7.6-28.4)	0.821
Sperm parameters					
Semen volume (ml)	25	2.5 (1.6-3.3, 0.7-6.2)	255	2.8 (1.9-3.8, 0.3-11.0)	0.161
Total sperm output (M)	25	68.0 (23.2-170.9, 0.0-551.8)	255	126.0 (55.8-213.0, 0.0-927.5)	0.044
Sperm concentration (M/ml)	25	26 (15-69, 0-113)	255	47 (25-71, 0-220)	0.060
SCSA (%)	24	4.0 (1.8-5.9, 0.7-13.6)	249	3.0 (1.9-5.4, 0.2-30.0)	0.428
Sperm morphology (N, %)	24	5 (3-7, 1-17)	246	5 (3-7, 0-15)	0.979
Sperm motility (a + b, %)	24	56.5 (37.0-67.8, 6-82)	252	58 (43-67, 1-88)	0.591
Serum hormone concentrations					
Testosterone (ng/ml)	44	4.0 (3.2-5.0, 1.1-7.2)	391	4.7 (3.6-5.9, 1.3-9.9)	0.005
LH (IU/l)	44	8.8 (7.3-12.8, 5.4-18.9)	393	10.7 (8.6-13.4, 2.3-28.4)	0.054
FSH (IU/l)	44	3.6 (2.7-5.6, 1.2-14.3)	393	4.3 (3.1-6.3, 0.6-39.5)	0.428
InhB (pg/ml)	44	209.1 (145.85-253.2, 48.7-389.3)	393	218.4 (179.7-270.5, 4.5-543.9)	0.032

Supplementary Table 3. Comparison of testicular volume, semen parameters and serum hormones by serum hsCRP concentration by 75% percentile, all assessments made at 20 years of age. Data are represented as Median (IQR, R). Individuals with hsCRP>10 were excluded.

Variables of interest	N _{High}	hsCRP ≥ 1.615 mg/l	N _{Normal}	hsCRP < 1.615 mg/l	p-value
Testicular volume (ml)	60	15.4 (12.2-17.1, 8.9-23.5)	299	14.9 (12.9-17.2, 7.6-28.4)	0.955
Semen parameters					
Volume (ml)	53	2.5 (1.6-3.1, 0.7-6.8)	275	3.0 (2.0-3.8, 0.1-11.0)	0.043
Total sperm output (M)	53	84.8 (49.1-166.9, 0.0-639.2)	275	118.4 (50.4-214.6, 0.0-927.5)	0.127
Sperm concentration (M/ml)	53	35 (23-63, 0-180)	275	47.0 (21.5-74.0, 0-220)	0.209
SCSA (%)	51	2.9 (1.7-5.1, 0.7-10.8)	271	3.1 (1.9-5.4, 0.2-30.0)	0.606
Morphology (N, %)	51	5 (4-8, 2-13)	267	5 (3-7, 0-18)	0.239
Motility (a + b, %)	52	52.5 (40.3-65.8, 10.0-86.0)	273	58 (43-67, 1-88)	0.276
Serum hormones					
Testosterone (ng/ml)	126	4.0 (3.2-5.2, 1.1-8.1)	456	4.8 (3.8-6.0, 1.7-9.9)	<0.001
LH (IU/l)	126	9.5 (7.7-12.3, 4.3-19.5)	458	10.7 (8.6-13.2, 2.3-28.4)	0.008
FSH (IU/l)	126	3.9 (2.7-5.2, 0.6-14.3)	458	4.4 (3.0-6.4, 0.6-39.5)	0.024
InhB (pg/ml)	126	216.3 (156.0-260.2, 48.7-419.1)	458	216.2 (174.2-269.7, 4.5-543.9)	0.201

Supplementary Table 4 Multivariate regression analysis to derive which metabolic risk factor individually remains significant, after adjustments for age and BMI at 20 years, cryptorchidism, and presence of a varicocele, on the reproductive hormones measured at 20 years of age. Three separate models, with either; HOMA at 20 years, NAFLD or metabolic cluster at 20 years were examined for each outcome. Model summaries include univariable and multivariable (adjusted) regression coefficients with their corresponding 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) and p-values; together with R² obtained in univariable models and an increase in R² (denoted R² change) in adjusted models are shown. P-value for R² change is reported to indicate whether the simultaneous adjustment for other characteristics improves prediction of outcomes. All measurements other than assessment for presence of NAFL (assessed at 17 years of age), were taken at 20 years of age.

Outcome (Total n=260)	Univariable			Multivariable			
	β (95% CI)	p-value	R ²	Adjusted β (95% CI)	p-value	R ² change	p-value for
Testosterone							
HOMA-IR	-0.54 (-0.85, -0.24)	<0.001	0.036	-0.48 (-0.78, -0.18)	0.002	0.063	<0.001
NAFLD	-0.24 (-0.48, 0.009)	0.004	0.014	-0.12 (-0.37, 0.14)	0.364	0.050	0.010
Metabolic cluster	-0.43 (-0.62, -0.25)	<0.001	0.060	-0.28 (-0.50, -0.06)	0.012	0.026	0.056
FSH							
HOMA-IR	0.01 (-0.001, 0.034)	0.061	0.004	0.013 (-0.007, 0.034)	0.202	0.012	0.375
NAFLD	0.002 (-0.01, 0.01)	0.667	0.000	0.02 (-0.02, 0.01)	0.842	0.013	0.487
Metabolic cluster	0.003 (-0.01, 0.01)	0.547	0.002	0.01 (-0.01, 0.02)	0.546	0.015	0.275
Inhibin B							
HOMA-IR	-10.5 (-22.9, -6.15)	0.097	0.008	-8.7 (-20.8, 3.44)	0.160	0.074	<0.001
NAFLD	-3.0 (-12.7, 6.7)	0.545	0.001	1.1 (-8.9, 11.1)	0.829	0.075	0.001
Metabolic cluster	-11.3 (-22.0, -2.5)	<0.001	0.042	-11.3 (-22.0, -2.5)	0.012	0.050	0.001

NAFL = Non-alcoholic fatty liver diagnosed on ultrasound

HOMA = homeostasis model assessment insulin

Table 1. Flow of study participants. Total number of participants with measurements available are shown as (n=maximum number of participants) and the maximal number of participants for each outcome out of testicular volume, semen sample and blood sample assessment according to measurements taken during the various follow-ups listed. The presence of non-alcoholic fatty liver (NAFL) was derived from a previous study Ayonirynde et al (14) and the data identifying individuals within or without the high cardiometabolic risk cluster, derived using cluster analysis in a previous study Huang et al (13)

				N
Pregnant women enrolled in the Raine study				2900
Live births				2868
Male infants				1454
Female infants				1414
<hr/>				
Male participants who had at least one of testicular ultrasound, semen or blood samples (n=648)		Testicular volume assessment performed (n=404)	Semen sample provided (n=365)	Serum available for reproductive hormones (n=609)
<hr/>				
Participants who underwent 16/17 ± 20/21 follow-up	Total participants underwent assessment (n)	Testicular volume measurements available (n)	Semen sample parameters available (n)	Serum sample available for gonadotrophins and testosterone (n)
<hr/>				
16/17 year follow up				
Serum cytokines assessment	(n=520)	319	290	478
Liver ultrasound for NAFL presence(14)	(n=587)	298	280	437
Serum available for full metabolic assessment (13)	(n=544)	289	264	439
20/21 year follow up				
Contactable	(n=913)			
Participated	(n=705)			
Anthropometric examination	(n=687)			
Blood pressure measured	(n=693)	391	360	603
Serum available for biochemistry	(n=620)	374	340	609
Serum available for full metabolic assessment	(n=608)	367	337	599
Serum for HOMA calculation	(n=618)	373	339	609
DEXA scan performed	(n=634)	362	333	557
<hr/>				

NAFL = Non-alcoholic fatty liver diagnosed on ultrasound

HOMA = homeostasis model assessment insulin (fasting insulin [$\mu\text{u}/\text{ml}$] \times fasting glucose [mM]/22.5).

DEXA = Dual energy X-ray absorptiometry

Table 2. Participant characteristics at 20 years of age – comparison between those who participated in at least one aspect of the testicular assessment and those who did not. Unless otherwise specified, data were collected at 20 years of age.

	Male participants n=648		Male non-participants n=57		p-value
	N	Median (IQR, R) or N (%)	N	Median (IQR, R) or N (%)	
Age at 17 year follow-up	487	17.0 (16.9-17.1, 16.3-18.0)	33	17.0 (16.9-17.1, 16.7-17.3)	0.598
Age at 20 year follow-up	648	19.9 (19.7-20.3, 19.3-22.1)	57	19.9 (19.6-20.5, 19.4-21.7)	0.786
Anthropometric					
Height (cm)	632	180 (170-180, 162-199)	55	180 (180-190, 156-198)	0.550
Weight (kg)	632	75.9 (68.3-86.2, 52.2-137.5)	55	75.8 (69.0-86.1, 50.2-176.5)	0.884
BMI (kg/m ²)	632	23.6 (21.4-26.3, 16.7-48.9)	55	23.9 (21.5-25.5, 18.0-42.9)	0.887
under 25		405 (64.1%)		39 (70.9%)	0.543
25 - 30		155 (24.5%)		10 (18.2%)	
30 plus		72 (11.4%)		6 (10.9%)	
Waist circumference (cm)	632	80.5 (75.1-87.5, 43.8-145.5)	55	80.8 (74.3-88.3, 63.5-131.5)	0.995
Adiposity (DEXA)					
Total fat mass (g)	586	14935 (10519-2431, 3413-105957)	48	15349 (10604-20633, 6583-50244)	0.843
Total lean mass (g)	586	56702 (52052-61561, 33747-83318)	48	57479 (51526-63403, 38679-89622)	0.790
Soft tissue percentage ^a	586	21 (16-28, 6-63)	48	20 (16-28, 10-46)	0.771
Total fat percentage ^b	586	20 (15-27, 5-61)	48	19 (15-27, 10-45)	0.740
Biochemistry					
Fasting glucose (mmol/l)	616	5.0 (4.8-5.3, 3.1-8.2)	2	-	
Triglycerides (mmol/l)	616	1.0 (0.7-1.3, 0.3-17.8)	2	-	
HDL cholesterol (mmol/l)	616	1.2 (1.0-1.4, 0.6-2.6)	2	-	
LDL cholesterol (mmol/l)	616	2.4 (1.9-2.8, 0.2-5.3)	2	-	
Iron (umol/L)	617	16.1 (12.8-20.5, 3.0-40.7)	2	-	
Transferrin (umol/l)	617	31.6 (29.0-34.0, 21.2-46.5)	2	-	
Transferrin saturation (%)	617	26.2 (20.7-32.8, 4.7-84.1)	2	-	
Ferritin (ug/l)	392	87.8 (61.9-127.2, 6.3-326.9)	2	-	
Insulin (µu/ml)	616	2.0 (2.0-4.7, 2.0-64.3)	2	-	
High sensitivity CRP (mg/l) ^c	591	0.6 (0.3-1.4, 0.1-9.8)	2	-	
ALT (u/l)	616	30 (22-42, 10-372)	2	-	
GGT (u/l)	616	17 (14-23, 7-83)	2	-	
AST (u/l)	616	25 (22-31, 11-199)	2	-	
Adiponectin (mg/l)	616	7.6 (5.1-10.3, 0.6-34.6)	2	-	
Leptin (µg/l)	616	3.3 (1.7-7.0, 0-162.1)	2	-	
HOMA	616	0.5 (0.4-1.1, 0.3-16.3)	2	-	
HOMA>4 ^c	616	24 (3.9%)	2	0	
Metabolic clusters					
High risk at 20yrs	606	76 (12.5%)	2	0	
High risk at 17 yrs	439	70 (15.9%)	15	2 (13.3%)	
Blood pressure					
Systolic (mm/Hg)	636	122 (114-132, 90-160)	57	123 (112-131, 91-152)	0.792
Diastolic (mm/Hg)	636	65 (59-71, 46-96)	57	64 (60-69, 47-90)	0.609
Serum reproductive hormones					
Testosterone (ng/mL)	607	4.6 (3.6-5.8, 1.1-10.3)			
LH (iu/l)	608	10.5 (8.3-13.0, 2.3-28.4)			
FSH (iu/l)	608	4.3 (3.0-6.2, 0.6-39.5)			
InhB (pg/ml)	609	216.4 (170.4-266.4, 4.5-543.9)			
Cytokines(at 17 yrs)					
IL18 (pg/ml)	496	288.4 (231.2-373.9, 0-3122)	23	263.6 (236.4-363.1, 153-1109)	0.802
sTNFR1 (pg/ml)	497	364.4 (286.1-462.8, 11-3549)	23	362.2 (293.7-420.4, 189-668)	0.874
sTNFR2 (pg/ml)	497	3180.4 (2636.3-3930.8, 24-9150)	23	3222.3 (2588.0-4057.2, 1930-5737)	0.853
Hepatic ultrasound (at 17 yrs)					
NAFLD	459	45 (9.8%)	31	4 (12.9%)	0.757
Tobacco and alcohol use					
Smoking [^]	494	78 (15.8%)	38	34 (15.8%)	1.000
Alcohol consumption [^]					
Nil	492	85 (17.3%)	37	6 (16.2%)	0.923
Moderate		249 (50.6%)		11 (29.7%)	
Binge		158 (32.1%)		58 (28.2%)	

^a Total soft tissue fat percentage = fat mass x 100 / (fat mass + lean mass), ^b Total fat percentage = fat mass x 100 / (fat mass + lean mass + bone mineral content), ^c hsCRP>10 has been excluded. [^]Smoking has 154 missing in the participants and 19 in the non-participants group. Alcohol consumption has 156 missing in the participants and 20 missing in the non-participants group.

Replaced with new Table 4

Table 3A. Associations between reproductive and metabolic parameters at 20/21 years of age summarised using standardized beta coefficients and their 95% confidence intervals (CI). All analyses were adjusted for age at 20 years of age, history of cryptorchidism and varicocele (β_1), coefficients also adjusted for BMI at 20 years of age are shown as (β_2 Semen parameters were also adjusted for abstinence period. Unless otherwise specified, data were collected at 20 years of age.

	Testis volume		Semen volume		Sperm output		Semen concentration	
	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)
Biochemistry								
Glucose	-0.043 (-0.143, 0.057)	-0.057 (-0.157, 0.044)	0.066 (-0.034, 0.166)	0.078 (-0.023, 0.179)	0.071 (-0.026, 0.168)	0.085 (-0.013, 0.182)	0.057 (-0.045, 0.159)	0.065 (-0.038, 0.168)
Triglycerides	-0.047 (-0.147, 0.053)	-0.070 (-0.173, 0.032)	-0.044 (-0.144, 0.057)	-0.029 (-0.132, 0.074)	-0.044 (-0.141, 0.053)	-0.027 (-0.127, 0.004)	-0.012 (-0.114, 0.090)	-0.003 (-0.108, 0.102)
HDL cholesterol	-0.027 (-0.126, 0.073)	-0.002 (-0.106, 0.103)	0.030 (-0.070, 0.130)	0.010 (-0.095, 0.115)	0.027 (-0.070, 0.124)	0.003 (-0.098, 0.105)	-0.010 (-0.092, 0.111)	-0.003 (-0.110, 0.103)
LDL cholesterol	0.028 (-0.073, 0.128)	0.009 (-0.094, 0.112)	-0.023 (-0.123, 0.078)	-0.007 (-0.111, 0.096)	-0.001 (-0.099, 0.096)	0.018 (-0.082, 0.118)	0.015 (-0.087, 0.118)	0.026 (-0.079, 0.131)
Iron	-0.019 (-0.119, 0.081)	-0.017 (-0.117, 0.083)	0.092 (-0.008, 0.192)	0.090 (-0.010, 0.191)	-0.012 (-0.010, 0.086)	-0.014 (-0.111, 0.084)	-0.059 (-0.161, 0.043)	-0.060 (-0.162, 0.042)
Transferrin	0.081 (-0.019, 0.180)	0.072 (-0.028, 0.172)	0.020 (-0.080, 0.120)	0.029 (-0.072, 0.129)	-0.067 (-0.167, 0.033)	-0.057 (-0.153, 0.040)	-0.075 (-0.177, 0.026)	-0.071 (-0.174, 0.031)
Transferrin saturation %	-0.046 (-0.147, 0.054)	-0.041 (-0.141, 0.059)	0.076 (-0.025, 0.177)	0.072 (-0.029, 0.173)	-0.001 (-0.098, 0.097)	-0.006 (-0.103, 0.092)	-0.039 (-0.141, 0.064)	-0.042 (-0.145, 0.061)
Ferritin	-0.040 (-0.141, 0.060)	-0.057 (-0.159, 0.045)	-0.049 (-0.150, 0.053)	-0.037 (-0.140, 0.066)	-0.060 (-0.158, 0.037)	-0.047 (-0.147, 0.052)	-0.031 (-0.133, 0.072)	-0.024 (-0.128, 0.081)
Insulin	-0.116 (-0.215, -0.016)	-0.153 (-0.256, -0.049)	-0.036 (-0.137, 0.065)	-0.017 (-0.122, 0.088)	-0.013 (-0.111, 0.084)	0.011 (-0.091, 0.113)	0.001 (-0.101, 0.104)	0.015 (-0.092, 0.122)
hsCRP [†]	-0.003 (-0.105, 0.099)	-0.029 (-0.135, 0.077)	-0.113 (-0.216, -0.010)	-0.101 (-0.208, 0.007)	-0.065 (-0.164, 0.035)	-0.046 (-0.149, 0.057)	-0.046 (-0.150, 0.058)	-0.037 (-0.146, 0.071)
ALT	-0.034 (-0.135, 0.066)	-0.061 (-0.165, 0.043)	-0.106 (-0.207, -0.006)	-0.093 (-0.202, 0.016)	-0.008 (-0.105, 0.090)	0.015 (-0.086, 0.117)	0.024 (-0.078, 0.127)	0.039 (-0.068, 0.145)
AST	-0.010 (-0.112, 0.092)	-0.041 (-0.149, 0.066)	-0.031 (-0.133, 0.072)	0.009 (-0.117, 0.098)	-0.045 (-0.143, 0.054)	-0.021 (-0.125, 0.082)	-0.031 (-0.135, 0.073)	-0.019 (-0.128, 0.090)
GGT	0.003 (-0.097, 0.103)	-0.003 (-0.103, 0.097)	-0.021 (-0.121, 0.080)	-0.015 (-0.116, 0.085)	-0.017 (-0.115, 0.080)	-0.011 (-0.108, 0.086)	-0.018 (-0.119, 0.084)	-0.014 (-0.117, 0.088)
Blood pressure								
Systolic	0.005 (-0.097, 0.103)	-0.028 (-0.132, 0.076)	0.094 (-0.003, 0.191)	0.135 (0.032, 0.238)	0.006 (-0.089, 0.100)	0.038 (-0.062, 0.139)	-0.039 (-0.138, 0.060)	-0.028 (-0.134, 0.078)
Diastolic	-0.109 (-0.207, -0.011)	-0.124 (-0.223, -0.025)	0.112 (0.014, 0.209)	0.124 (0.026, 0.223)	0.100 (0.005, 0.194)	0.114 (0.018, 0.209)	0.049 (-0.050, 0.149)	0.057 (-0.044, 0.157)
Cytokines at 16/17 yrs								
IL18	0.022 (-0.088, 0.132)	0.026 (-0.084, 0.135)	0.003 (-0.107, 0.112)	-0.001 (-0.110, 0.109)	-0.116 (-0.222, -0.011)	-0.120 (-0.225, -0.015)	-0.129 (-0.239, -0.019)	-0.131 (-0.242, -0.011)
sTNFR1	-0.089 (-0.197, 0.020)	-0.094 (-0.203, 0.014)	-0.123 (-0.232, -0.015)	-0.118 (-0.228, -0.009)	-0.119 (-0.224, -0.013)	-0.113 (-0.219, -0.007)	-0.045 (-0.157, 0.066)	-0.043 (-0.155, 0.068)
sTNFR2	-0.009 (-0.118, 0.101)	-0.013 (-0.122, 0.096)	-0.084 (-0.193, 0.026)	-0.081 (-0.190, 0.029)	-0.079 (-0.185, 0.027)	-0.076 (-0.181, 0.030)	-0.065 (-0.177, 0.048)	-0.063 (-0.176, 0.049)
DEXA								
Total fat %	-0.018 (-0.122, 0.086)	-0.129 (-0.266, 0.007)	-0.086 (-0.189, 0.018)	-0.068 (-0.205, 0.070)	-0.096 (-0.199, 0.007)	-0.073 (-0.206, 0.059)	-0.045 (-0.150, 0.060)	-0.029 (-0.169, 0.111)
Soft tissue fat %	-0.035 (-0.139, 0.069)	-0.137 (-0.266, -0.008)	-0.084 (-0.187, 0.020)	-0.064 (-0.201, 0.073)	-0.095 (-0.195, 0.005)	-0.072 (-0.205, 0.060)	-0.046 (-0.151, 0.060)	-0.030 (-0.170, 0.109)
Total fat mass	0.046 (-0.058, 0.149)	-0.041 (-0.196, 0.115)	-0.071 (-0.174, 0.032)	-0.040 (-0.196, 0.116)	-0.102 (-0.202, -0.003)	-0.094 (-0.245, 0.057)	-0.065 (-0.170, 0.039)	-0.076 (-0.234, 0.083)
Total lean mass	0.299 (0.202, 0.397)	0.366 (0.249, 0.433) *	0.096 (-0.005, 0.198)	0.196 (0.076, 0.317)	0.004 (-0.094, 0.103)	0.071 (-0.047, 0.189)	-0.055 (-0.159, 0.048)	-0.046 (-0.170, 0.079)
Metabolic syndrome								
HOMA	-0.121 (-0.220, -0.021)	-0.157 (-0.260, -0.054)	-0.032 (-0.133, 0.069)	-0.013 (-0.118, 0.092)	-0.004 (-0.101, 0.094)	0.021 (-0.081, 0.122)	-0.011 (-0.091, 0.114)	0.026 (-0.081, 0.132)

[†] hsCRP>10 are excluded (n=10); effects significant at 0.05 level are shown in bold. *p<0.001

Table 3B. (Table 3 continued) Associations between semen parameters and metabolic parameters at 20/21 years of age summarised using standardized beta coefficients and their 95% confidence intervals (CI). All analyses were adjusted for age at 20 years of age, history of cryptorchidism and varicocele (β_1), coefficients also adjusted for BMI at 20 years of age are shown as (β_2). Semen parameters were also adjusted for abstinence period. Unless otherwise specified, data were collected at 20 years of age.

	SCSA		Morphology		Motility	
	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)
Biochemistry						
Glucose	0.011 (-0.094, 0.116)	0.006 (-0.100, 0.112)	0.042 (-0.064, 0.149)	0.038 (-0.070, 0.146)	0.080 (-0.023, 0.184)	0.081 (-0.024, 0.185)
Triglycerides	-0.065 (-0.170, 0.040)	-0.078 (-0.186, 0.030)	-0.018 (-0.124, 0.089)	-0.027 (-0.137, 0.083)	0.051 (-0.053, 0.154)	0.052 (-0.055, 0.159)
HDL cholesterol	-0.081 (-0.185, 0.024)	-0.077 (-0.186, 0.033)	0.031 (-0.076, 0.138)	0.045 (-0.067, 0.157)	-0.046 (-0.150, 0.057)	-0.048 (-0.157, 0.060)
LDL cholesterol	0.010 (-0.096, 0.115)	0.002 (-0.107, 0.110)	-0.039 (-0.147, 0.068)	-0.049 (-0.159, 0.061)	0.117 (0.014, 0.221)	0.122 (0.016, 0.228)
Iron	-0.011 (-0.117, 0.095)	-0.010 (-0.116, 0.095)	-0.054 (-0.162, 0.053)	-0.054 (-0.161, 0.054)	0.004 (-0.101, 0.108)	0.004 (-0.101, 0.108)
Transferrin	-0.026 (-0.130, 0.079)	-0.030 (-0.136, 0.075)	-0.011 (-0.117, 0.096)	-0.015 (-0.122, 0.093)	-0.055 (-0.159, 0.048)	-0.057 (-0.161, 0.047)
Transferrin saturation %	-0.012 (-0.094, 0.118)	0.014 (-0.092, 0.121)	-0.055 (-0.162, 0.052)	-0.053 (-0.161, 0.055)	0.020 (-0.084, 0.125)	0.021 (-0.084, 0.126)
Ferritin	0.047 (-0.059, 0.153)	0.041 (-0.066, 0.149)	-0.065 (-0.173, 0.042)	-0.073 (-0.183, 0.036)	0.065 (-0.040, 0.169)	0.065 (-0.041, 0.172)
Insulin	-0.006 (-0.112, 0.100)	-0.018 (-0.129, 0.092)	0.048 (-0.059, 0.156)	0.042 (-0.070, 0.155)	0.037 (-0.067, 0.141)	0.038 (-0.071, 0.147)
hsCRP [†]	-0.027 (-0.134, 0.081)	-0.040 (-0.152, 0.072)	0.053 (-0.056, 0.162)	0.048 (-0.066, 0.161)	-0.008 (-0.115, 0.098)	-0.011 (-0.122, 0.100)
ALT	0.006 (-0.100, 0.111)	0.005 (-0.115, 0.105)	0.149 (0.043, 0.255)	0.151 (0.040, 0.262)	0.012 (-0.093, 0.116)	0.010 (-0.098, 0.119)
AST	-0.030 (-0.137, 0.077)	-0.045 (-0.158, 0.067)	0.069 (-0.043, 0.181)	0.067 (-0.051, 0.185)	-0.010 (-0.116, 0.096)	-0.014 (-0.125, 0.098)
GGT	-0.044 (-0.149, 0.061)	-0.047 (-0.152, 0.058)	0.122 (0.016, 0.228)	0.120 (0.013, 0.226)	0.024 (-0.079, 0.128)	0.024 (-0.080, 0.128)
Blood pressure						
Systolic	-0.001 (-0.103, 0.101)	-0.016 (-0.125, 0.093)	-0.002 (-0.106, 0.102)	-0.015 (-0.126, 0.096)	0.024 (-0.077, 0.124)	0.024 (-0.084, 0.132)
Diastolic	-0.007 (-0.110, 0.096)	-0.012 (-0.117, 0.092)	-0.049 (-0.154, 0.056)	-0.055 (-0.166, 0.057)	0.059 (-0.043, 0.160)	0.059 (-0.044, 0.161)
Cytokines at 16/17 yrs						
IL18	0.017 (-0.098, 0.132)	0.019 (-0.097, 0.134)	-0.009 (-0.126, 0.108)	-0.007 (-0.124, 0.110)	0.0003 (-0.113, 0.114)	0.001 (-0.113, 0.115)
sTNFR1	-0.030 (-0.145, 0.084)	-0.033 (-0.148, 0.082)	-0.034 (-0.150, 0.083)	-0.036 (-0.153, 0.081)	-0.093 (-0.206, 0.019)	-0.094 (-0.207, 0.019)
sTNFR2	0.071 (-0.044, 0.186)	0.070 (-0.046, 0.185)	0.009 (-0.108, 0.127)	0.008 (-0.110, 0.125)	-0.050 (-0.163, 0.064)	-0.050 (-0.164, 0.064)
DEXA						
Total fat %	-0.012 (-0.121, 0.097)	-0.064 (-0.209, 0.080)	0.062 (-0.048, 0.172)	0.070 (-0.077, 0.216)	0.052 (-0.056, 0.159)	0.082 (-0.060, 0.225)
Soft tissue fat %	-0.010 (-0.119, 0.099)	-0.061 (-0.205, 0.083)	0.061 (-0.050, 0.171)	0.067 (-0.079, 0.213)	0.051 (-0.057, 0.158)	0.080 (-0.062, 0.222)
Total fat mass	0.007 (-0.102, 0.115)	-0.049 (-0.214, 0.115)	0.045 (-0.065, 0.155)	0.046 (-0.121, 0.213)	0.038 (-0.069, 0.145)	0.074 (-0.088, 0.237)
Total lean mass	0.043 (-0.064, 0.150)	0.033 (-0.096, 0.161)	-0.019 (-0.127, 0.090)	-0.054 (-0.184, 0.077)	-0.038 (-0.144, 0.067)	-0.061 (-0.188, 0.066)
Metabolic syndrome						
HOMA	-0.002 (-0.107, 0.104)	-0.013 (-0.123, 0.097)	0.052 (-0.055, 0.160)	0.047 (-0.065, 0.159)	0.046 (-0.058, 0.151)	0.048 (-0.061, 0.157)

[†] hsCRP>10 are excluded (n=10); effects significant at 0.05 level are shown in bold.

Table 4. Associations between serum testicular hormones and gonadotrophins and metabolic parameters at 20/21 years of age summarised using standardized beta coefficients and their 95% confidence intervals (CI). All beta coefficients were adjusted for age at 20 years of age, history of cryptorchidism and varicocele were made in all analyses (β_1) and separate coefficients are shown with additional adjustment for BMI at 20 years of age (β_2). Unless otherwise specified, data were collected at 20/21 years of age.

	Testosterone		Inh B		LH		FSH	
	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)	β_1 (95% CI)	β_2 (95% CI)
Biochemistry								
Glucose	-0.038 (-0.119, 0.043)	0.002 (-0.077, 0.081)	-0.049 (-0.129, 0.032)	-0.014 (-0.093, 0.065)	-0.018 (-0.098, 0.063)	-0.009 (-0.090, 0.072)	0.003 (-0.077, 0.084)	0.006 (-0.076, 0.087)
Triglycerides	-0.128 (-0.209, -0.048)	-0.068 (-0.148, 0.012)	-0.151 (-0.231, -0.072)*	-0.101 (-0.181, -0.021)	0.036 (-0.045, 0.116)	0.053 (-0.030, 0.135)	0.033 (-0.047, 0.114)	0.039 (-0.044, 0.121)
HDL cholesterol	0.201 (0.122, 0.281) *	0.132 (0.051, 0.213) *	0.095 (0.015, 0.175)	0.027 (-0.054, 0.109)	-0.007 (-0.087, 0.073)	-0.027 (-0.111, 0.057)	-0.024 (-0.104, 0.056)	-0.031 (-0.115, 0.053)
LDL cholesterol	-0.025 (-0.106, 0.057)	0.038 (-0.042, 0.119)	-0.055 (-0.136, 0.026)	-0.002 (-0.083, 0.078)	-0.057 (-0.138, 0.024)	-0.046 (-0.129, 0.037)	-0.020 (-0.101, 0.061)	-0.018 (-0.101, 0.065)
Iron	0.173 (0.092, 0.253) *	0.166 (0.089, 0.243) *	0.014 (-0.067, 0.094)	0.008 (-0.071, 0.086)	-0.045 (-0.126, 0.036)	-0.047 (-0.127, 0.034)	-0.056 (-0.136, 0.025)	-0.056 (-0.137, 0.025)
Transferrin	-0.011 (-0.092, 0.070)	0.021 (-0.058, 0.099)	0.014 (-0.066, 0.095)	0.042 (-0.036, 0.121)	-0.031 (-0.111, 0.049)	-0.024 (-0.105, 0.057)	-0.035 (-0.116, 0.045)	-0.034 (-0.115, 0.047)
Transferrin saturation %	0.167 (0.086, 0.247) *	0.149 (0.071, 0.227) *	0.012 (-0.069, 0.093)	-0.004 (-0.083, 0.075)	-0.032 (-0.113, 0.049)	-0.036 (-0.118, 0.045)	-0.039 (-0.120, 0.042)	-0.040 (-0.121, 0.041)
Ferritin	-0.095 (-0.176, -0.013)	-0.048 (-0.128, 0.032)	-0.011 (-0.093, 0.070)	0.031 (-0.049, 0.111)	-0.030 (-0.111, 0.051)	-0.020 (-0.103, 0.062)	-0.025 (-0.106, 0.056)	-0.023 (-0.106, 0.059)
Insulin	-0.241 (-0.320, -0.162)*	-0.177 (-0.258, -0.097)*	-0.211(-0.289, -0.132)*	-0.155(-0.236, -0.074)*	-0.012 (-0.093, 0.069)	0.005 (-0.079, 0.090)	0.072 (-0.009, 0.152)	0.083 (-0.002, 0.167)
hsCRP [†]	-0.249 (-0.329, -0.169)*	-0.187 (-0.268, -0.106)*	-0.024 (-0.106, 0.058)	0.046 (-0.037, 0.129)	-0.073 (-0.155, 0.008)	-0.061 (-0.146, 0.024)	-0.123 (-0.204, -0.042)	-0.129 (-0.214, -0.045)
ALT	-0.116 (-0.197, -0.035)	-0.045 (-0.127, 0.036)	-0.126 (-0.206, -0.045)	-0.067 (-0.148, 0.015)	-0.016 (-0.097, 0.065)	-0.0001 (-0.084, 0.084)	-0.004 (-0.085, 0.077)	-0.001 (-0.085, 0.084)
AST	-0.155 (-0.236, -0.074)	-0.076 (-0.159, 0.008)	-0.149 (-0.230, -0.068)	-0.083 (-0.166, 0.001)	-0.017 (-0.099, 0.065)	0.002 (-0.084, 0.088)	0.038 (-0.044, 0.120)	0.047 (-0.039, 0.133)
GGT	-0.013 (-0.094, 0.068)	0.007 (-0.071, 0.085)	-0.006 (-0.087, 0.074)	0.011 (-0.067, 0.090)	-0.024 (-0.104, 0.057)	-0.028 (-0.135, 0.078)	-0.056 (-0.136, 0.024)	-0.055 (-0.136, 0.025)
Blood pressure								
Systolic	-0.084 (-0.165, -0.004)	0.012 (-0.071, 0.095)	-0.129 (-0.208, -0.049)	-0.053 (-0.136, 0.030)	0.002 (-0.079, 0.082)	0.026 (-0.060, 0.111)	0.037 (-0.043, 0.118)	0.048 (-0.038, 0.134)
Diastolic	-0.086 (-0.167, -0.004)	-0.047 (-0.127, 0.032)	-0.075 (-0.156, 0.006)	-0.042 (-0.122, 0.037)	0.050 (-0.032, 0.131)	0.059 (-0.022, 0.141)	0.062 (-0.019, 0.143)	0.065 (-0.017, 0.147)
Cytokines at 16/17 yrs								
IL18	-0.020 (-0.112, 0.072)	-0.033 (-0.121, 0.056)	0.020 (-0.071, 0.111)	0.009 (-0.079, 0.098)	0.066 (-0.025, 0.157)	0.063 (-0.028, 0.154)	-0.012 (-0.104, 0.079)	-0.013 (-0.104, 0.978)
sTNFR1	-0.027 (-0.119, 0.064)	-0.010 (-0.099, 0.078)	-0.128 (-0.218, -0.038)	-0.114 (-0.202, -0.026)	0.108 (0.018, 0.198)	0.112 (0.022, 0.202)	0.153 (0.063, 0.242)*	0.154 (0.064, 0.244)*
sTNFR2	-0.004 (-0.095, 0.088)	0.011 (-0.078, 0.099)	-0.011 (-0.102, 0.079)	-0.001 (-0.087, 0.090)	0.039 (-0.051, 0.130)	0.043 (-0.048, 0.134)	0.037 (-0.054, 0.128)	0.038 (-0.053, 0.129)
DEXA								
Total fat %	-0.243 (-0.327, -0.159)*	-0.105 (-0.214, 0.005)	-0.137 (-0.222, -0.052)	0.036 (-0.074, 0.146)	-0.120 (-0.205, -0.035)	-0.139 (-0.252, -0.027)	-0.076 (-0.161, 0.010)	-0.115 (-0.228, -0.002)
Soft tissue fat %	-0.241(-0.325, -0.157)*	-0.103 (-0.212, 0.006)	-0.139 (-0.224, -0.054)	0.031 (-0.079, 0.140)	-0.121 (-0.206, -0.036)	-0.140 (-0.252, -0.028)	-0.074 (-0.159, 0.012)	-0.111 (-0.223, 0.001)
Total fat mass	-0.271 (-0.354, -0.188)*	-0.143 (-0.268, -0.019)	-0.175 (-0.259, -0.091)*	0.010 (-0.114, 0.135)	-0.112 (-0.197, -0.027)	-0.150 (-0.277, -0.022)	-0.058 (-0.143, 0.028)	-0.106 (-0.234, 0.022)
Total lean mass	-0.038 (-0.122, 0.047)	0.167 (0.070, 0.265)*	-0.139 (-0.222, -0.055)*	-0.009 (-0.108, 0.089)	0.052 (-0.032, 0.136)	0.124 (0.023, 0.224)	0.086 (0.002, 0.170)	0.136 (0.036, 0.237)
Metabolic syndrome								
HOMA	-0.237 (-0.341, -0.133)*	-0.172 (-0.278, -0.066)	-0.203 (-0.282, -0.124)*	-0.149(-0.230, -0.068)*	-0.016 (-0.097, 0.065)	0.001 (-0.083, 0.085)	0.069 (-0.011, 0.150)	0.080 (-0.004, 0.164)

[†]hsCRP>10 are excluded (n=10); effects significant at 0.05 level are shown in bold. *p = or <0.001

Table 5. Comparison of testicular volume, semen parameters and serum hormones by metabolic clusters, all assessments made at 20 years of age in the top part of the table, and metabolic cluster analysis and associations at 17 years of age are listed in the lower part of the table. Data is represented as Median (IQR, R) and Mean (SD) as appropriate.

Cluster parameters at 20 years of age	N	High risk at 20 years of age [Mean (SD)]	N_{Low}	Low risk at 20 years of age [Mean (SD)]	p-value
Systolic blood pressure (mm/Hg)	43	130.8 (10.6)	342	121.8 (12.2)	<0.001
Insulin (µu/ml)	43	14.2 (12.8)	342	3.2 (2.2)	<0.001
Triglycerides (mmol/l)	43	1.8 (1.1)	342	1.0 (0.4)	<0.001
Waist circumference (cm)	43	100.2 (12.9)	342	80.2 (7.6)	<0.001
Metabolic cluster at 20 years of age					
Testicular function assessment at 20 years		High risk at 20 years of age [Median (IQR, R)]		Low risk at 20 years of age [Median (IQR, R)]	
Testicular volume (ml)	42	14.7 (12.3-16.9, 9.0-23.8)	325	15.2 (13.0-17.4, 7.6-28.4)	0.574
Semen parameters					
Volume (ml)	34	2.7 (1.9-4.0, 0.9-7.2)	303	2.8 (1.9-3.7, 0.1-11.0)	0.979
Total sperm output (M)	34	115.3 (51.0-194.0, 0.0-551.8)	303	113.4 (50.6-207.0, 0.0-927.5)	0.738
Sperm concentration (M/mL)	34	42.5 (19.4-70.5, 0-142)	303	46 (23-73, 0-220)	0.663
SCSA (%)	32	2.5 (1.5-4.7, 0.6-10.8)	298	3.1 (1.9-5.2, 0.2-30.0)	0.106
Morphology (N, %)	32	5.5 (3.6-9.0, 3-17)	294	5 (3-7, 0-18)	0.144
Motility (a + b, %)	33	58.0 (43.5-70.5, 19-86)	300	58 (44-67, 1-88)	0.773
Serum hormones					
Testosterone (ng/ml)	75	3.6 (3.0-4.0, 1.1-6.5)	522	4.8 (3.8-5.9, 1.3-10.3)	<0.001
LH (IU/l)	76	6.7 (7.6-12.8, 5.2-19.3)	522	10.5 (8.3-13.1, 2.3-28.4)	0.097
FSH (IU/l)	76	4.4 (2.9-6.8, 0.8-25.8)	522	4.3 (3.0-6.1, 0.6-39.5)	0.492
InhB (pg/ml)	76	167.9 (132.1-217.0, 28.9-389.3)	523	223.7 (180.6-272.9, 4.5-543.9)	<0.001
Metabolic cluster at 17 years of age					
Testicular function assessment at 20 years		High risk at 16/17 yrs of age [Median (IQR, R)]		Low risk at 16/17 yrs of age [Median (IQR, R)]	
Testicular volume (ml)	39	15.6 (13.3-17.5, 10.1-23.2)	249	14.7 (12.6-17.1, 8.0-28.4)	0.215
Semen parameters					
Volume (ml)	37	2.5 (1.6-3.6, 0.3-11.0)	227	2.8 (2.0-3.6, 0.7-7.5)	0.347
Total sperm output (M)	37	110.7 (52.2-288.9, 0.0-592.2)	227	122.2 (56.0-217.6, 0.0-927.5)	0.711
Sperm concentration (M/mL)	37	50 (26.5-88.5, 0-220)	227	47 (23-71, 0-210)	0.280
SCSA (%)	35	3.6 (1.8-6.5, 0.7-30)	222	3.3 (1.9-5.5, 0.2-19.0)	0.416
Morphology (N, %)	35	5.0 (3.0-7.0, 0.5-17)	219	4.5 (3.0-7.0, 0.5-18.0)	0.782
Motility (a + b, %)	36	51.0 (38.5-65.8, 7.0-88.0)	224	59.0 (43.3-68.0, 7.0-88.0)	0.170
Serum hormones					
Testosterone (ng/ml)	67	4.0 (3.2-4.9, 1.6-7.2)	356	4.9 (3.6-6.0, 1.8-9.9)	<0.001
LH (IU/l)	68	10.1 (7.8-13.9, 5.4-19.8)	357	10.6 (8.6-13.2, 4.3-28.4)	0.425
FSH (IU/l)	68	4.4 (3.4-6.8, 1.1-14.3)	357	4.3 (3.0-6.2, 0.8-39.5)	0.285
InhB (pg/ml)	68	193.2 (144.8-226.5, 48.7-389.3)	357	221.9 (180.3-269.0, 56.7-543.9)	<0.001

Table 6. Comparison of testicular volume, semen parameters and serum testicular hormones and gonadotrophins by HOMA-IR, all assessments made at 20 years of age. Data is represented as Median (IQR, R).

Testicular function assessment	N _{IR}	IR (HOMA>4)	N _{Normal}	Normal (HOMA≤4)	p-value
Testicular volume (ml)	14	12.8 (11.1-14.7, 10.0-16.9)	359	15.2 (13.0-17.4, 7.6-28.4)	0.010
Sperm parameters					
Semen volume (ml)	13	2.6 (1.5-3.6, 0.9-4.2)	326	2.8 (1.9-3.8, 0.1-11.0)	0.320
Total sperm output (M)	13	136.8 (81.0-253.9, 0.0-383.4)	326	110.6 (50.6-206.7, 0.0-927.5)	0.459
Sperm concentration (M/ml)	13	64.0 (30.0-88.5, 0-160)	326	44.5 (22.0-70.3, 0-220)	0.293
SCSA (%)	12	2.8 (1.5-5.4, 1.4-10.8)	320	3.1 (1.8-5.2, 0.2-30.0)	0.654
Sperm morphology (N, %)	12	5.5 (3.3-10.0, 3-17)	316	5 (3-7, 0-18)	0.402
Sperm motility (a + b, %)	12	63 (47.3-75.8, 26-79)	323	58 (43-67, 1-88)	0.330
Serum hormone concentrations					
Testosterone (ng/ml)	24	3.2 (2.6-4.0, 1.1-5.3)	583	4.6 (3.7-5.9, 1.3-10.3)	<0.001
LH (IU/l)	24	10.6 (8.2-13.3, 6.3-17.1)	584	10.5 (8.3-13.0, 2.3-28.4)	0.903
FSH (IU/l)	24	6.1 (3.4-7.9, 1.1-14.3)	584	4.3 (3.0-6.1, 0.6-39.5)	0.046
InhB (pg/ml)	24	172.4 (130.0-213.4, 54.8-389.3)	585	217.8 (174.0-267.6, 4.5-543.9)	0.001

HOMA = homeostasis model assessment insulin (Fasting insulin [μ u/ml] \times Fasting glucose [mM]/22.5).