

Clinical phenotype clustering in cardiovascular risk patients for the identification of responsive metabotypes after red wine polyphenol intake

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25 ABSTRACT

26 Metabolic phenotypes of individuals are the result of genes, environment, lifestyle, diet and gut
27 microbiota interactions. The aim of this study is to evaluate the robustness of clinical and
28 metabolic phenotyping in identifying differential responsiveness to dietary strategies in the
29 improvement of cardiometabolic status. Clinical phenotyping of 57 male volunteers with high
30 cardiovascular risk factors was performed using *K*-means cluster analysis based on 69
31 anthropometric and plasma biochemical parameters. Cluster validation analysis based on Dunn
32 analysis for internal coherence and FOM analysis for external homogeneity was applied. The *K*-
33 means analysis produced four clusters with particularly significant clinical profiles. Basal
34 differences on the urine metabolomic profiles among clinical phenotypes were explored and
35 validated by OSC-PLS-DA models. Multivariate analysis (OSC-PLS-DA) of ¹H-NMR spectra
36 revealed that the model comparing the “obese and diabetic cluster” (OD-c) against the
37 “healthier cluster” (H-c) showed the best predictability and robustness in terms of explaining the
38 pairwise differences between clusters. When considering these two clusters, two different
39 groups of metabolites were observed after following an intervention with wine polyphenol
40 intake (WPI, 733 Equivalents of Gallic Acid [GAE/day] per 28 days). Cluster differences
41 between baseline and post-intervention values of 24h-urine NMR metabolomic data were
42 analyzed by ANOVA. Those associated to a specific metabotype (OD-c), glucose as the
43 significantly characteristic of the group (FDR correction, $p < 0.01$), and lactate, betaine and
44 dimethylamine with a trend; and those associated to wine polyphenol intervention (OD-c_WPI
45 and H-c_WPI), tartrate (FDR correction $p < 0.001$), and mannitol, threonine methanol, fucose
46 and 3-hydroxyphenylacetate in a trending profile. On the other hand, 4-HPA (metabolite derived
47 from gut microbial metabolism after wine polyphenol intake) significantly increased (FDR
48 correction, $p < 0.05$) for H-c_WPI compared to OD-c_WPI and basal periods (H-c_BAS and
49 OD-c_BAS), exhibiting a metabotypic intervention effect. This study provides efficient
50 strategies for targeting the heterogeneity in individual’s responsiveness to dietary intervention
51 and the identification of health benefits in specific population groups.

52

53 1 INTRODUCTION

54 Metabolic phenotypes (metabotypes) are the result of interactions among several different
55 factors (diet, lifestyle, gut microbiota, genetics, etc.), and describe characteristic metabolic
56 profiles reflecting the biochemistry, the physiological status, and the environmental exposure in
57 a population (Rezzi, Ramadan et al. 2007; Holmes, Wilson et al. 2008). Applications of
58 metabolic phenotyping in nutrition research could be very useful in terms of assigning
59 individuals to a particular metabolic phenotype. This could help improve our understanding of
60 the linkage between both diet and disease with the different individual metabotypes (McNiven,
61 German et al. 2011; Kinross, Li et al. 2014).

62 Metabolomic technologies permit the characterization of large numbers of small molecules in
63 human biofluids. ¹H-NMR-based metabolomics is a very robust technique for performing
64 metabolomic studies, enabling the simultaneous detection and quantification of a wide range of
65 different metabolites. Because of this, NMR-based metabolomics has been applied in a variety
66 of disciplines. In the field of nutrition, NMR-based metabolomics has been used to identify the
67 most significant changes in a metabolic profile arising from dietary intervention studies, dietary
68 biomarker studies and diet related disease studies (Brennan 2014). It can also be used to identify
69 new small molecule candidates for disease biomarkers (Rupérez, Ramos-Mozo et al. 2012;
70 Yang, Wang et al. 2013)

71 Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of mortality worldwide, with CVD-
72 associated deaths rising very quickly in low-to-middle income countries. Modifiable risk factors
73 for CVD—which include hypertension, smoking, abdominal obesity, abnormal lipids, diabetes
74 mellitus, stress, low consumption of fruits and vegetables, and lack of regular physical
75 activity—are the major contributors to CVD morbidity and mortality (Dahlöf 2010).

76 Additionally, reduced plasma HDL levels and elevated plasma TAG concentrations are known
77 to be significant risk factors for ischemic heart disease (IHD) (Lewington, Whitlock et al. 2007;
78 Frikke-Schmidt, Nordestgaard et al. 2008). C-reactive protein (CRP) is another CVD risk
79 marker (Ridker, Danielson et al. 2009). In addition, high plasma levels of homocysteine are

80 considered to be a risk factor for vascular disease, heart failure and strokes (Kaptoge, Di
81 Angelantonio et al. 2010). Another important risk factor is type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2D). The
82 prevalence of T2D is increasing rapidly around the world. Clinical predictors such as body mass
83 index (BMI), fat distribution measured by Waist-hip ratio (WHR), CRP and fasting blood
84 glucose levels can be helpful in measuring diabetes risk (Pradhan, Manson et al. 2001; Wilson,
85 Meigs et al. 2007; Wannamethee, Papacosta et al. 2010; Wang, Larson et al. 2011).

86 The low incidence of coronary heart disease (CHD) in Mediterranean countries has been partly
87 assigned to their distinct dietary habits (Dauchet, Amouyel et al. 2009). Several studies have
88 shown an inverse association between the Mediterranean diet and the incidence of CVD
89 (Estruch, Ros et al. 2013). As one of the main constituents of Mediterranean diet, wine and its
90 components, especially polyphenols, may provide additional health benefits (Chiva-Blanch,
91 Urpi-Sarda et al. 2013). In particular, the regular consumption of wine polyphenols used in this
92 study appears to mitigate CVD risk factors, leading to reduced blood pressure (Chiva-Blanch,
93 Urpi-Sarda et al. 2012) and inflammatory parameters (Chiva-Blanch, Urpi-Sarda et al. 2012).
94 The health benefits of polyphenols provided by wine intake are of particular interest. In the
95 present study, a long-term feeding trial was performed to determine changes in urinary
96 metabolites between different metabotypes. Therefore, the aim of the present work was to
97 classify a specific population into phenotypic groups according to their biochemical
98 characteristics, and then to use ¹H-NMR-based urinary metabolomics to observe the different
99 metabolic responses after red wine polyphenols intake.

100 2 MATERIAL AND METHODS

101 2.1 Subjects and Study Design

102 The study was a prospective, randomized, crossover, and controlled trial (Chiva-Blanch, Urpi-
103 Sarda et al. 2012). High-risk subjects aged ≥ 55 years without documented CHD (CHD:
104 ischemic heart disease—angina/recent or past myocardial infarction/previous or cerebral
105 vascular accident, peripheral vascular disease) were recruited for the study. The subjects

106 included had diabetes mellitus or more than three of the following CHD risk factors: tobacco
107 smoking, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, plasma LDL cholesterol ≥ 160 mg/dL, plasma
108 HDL cholesterol < 40 mg/dL, obesity (BMI (in kg/m²) ≥ 30), and/or a family history of
109 premature CHD (first-line male relatives < 55 years or females < 65 years). Participants had to
110 voluntarily give signed informed consent. Subjects with a previous history of CVD, any severe
111 chronic disease, alcoholism, or other toxic substance abuse were excluded.

112 To fulfil the objectives of the present study, we used ¹H-NMR spectroscopy to evaluate the
113 urinary metabolomes from 57 participants between baseline and after 28 days of red wine
114 polyphenols intake (WPI, polyphenol content: 733 Equivalents of Gallic Acid [EGA/day]) in
115 form of dealcoholized wine from a Merlot grape variety. Results of polyphenol composition
116 analysis of the beverages are shown in Supplemental material, Table S1. The Institutional
117 Review Board of the hospital approved the study protocol, and all participants gave written
118 consent before participation in the study. The trial has been registered in the Current Controlled
119 Trials in London, International Standard Randomized Controlled Trial Number
120 (ISRCTN88720134).

121 **2.2 Anthropometric Measurements and Biochemical Analyses**

122 Anthropometric measurements and biochemical analyses were performed using standardized
123 methods (Estruch, Martínez-González et al. 2006). BMI and WHR were measured in all the
124 participants to evaluate their obesity status. Systolic and diastolic blood pressures as well as
125 heart rate were also measured. Clinical parameters were tested in the blood and urine of
126 participants at the beginning of the study (baseline) in order to characterize the biochemical
127 status of each participant. Blood glucose levels, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein
128 cholesterol (HDL), low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL), LDL/HDL ratio,
129 triacylglycerides (TAG), 24h-diuresis, plasmatic creatine, uric acid, aminotransferases,
130 bilirubin, ferritin, C-reactive protein, albumin, enzymes (alkaline phosphatase, lactate
131 dehydrogenase), ions (Na⁺, K⁺), as well as globulins, apolipoprotein levels, hemoglobin and red

132 blood cell count; with several coagulation parameters (prothrombin, thrombin, fibrinogen) were
133 measured. In total, 69 anthropometric and biochemical baseline parameters were evaluated.
134 These are shown in Table 1.

135 **2.3 Biochemical Biomarkers and Clinical Phenotype by a *k*-means Algorithm**

136 The final data set contained 69 variables from 57 samples (of the initial set of 61 individuals, 4
137 were excluded because of incomplete data regarding clinical and anthropometric parameters).
138 Prior to *k*-means analysis all variables were typified. All cluster metrics were computed with
139 1000 different random initializations of the *k*-means algorithm in order to avoid local minima. A
140 maximum number of 100 iterations were allowed in the *k*-means calculations. All computations
141 were carried out using the R package for Statistical Computing v. 2.14.1. This included the
142 statistics package for the *k*-means algorithm and the clValid package for the cluster validation
143 analysis. Dunn analysis for internal coherence and FOM analysis for external homogeneity were
144 applied to the dataset employing Euclidean distances and a *k*-means clustering algorithm. Our
145 results suggest that a cluster solution consisting of 4 centers or groups (4 clusters) showed the
146 optimal properties of internal coherence and grouping stability (the detailed methodology and
147 the validation procedure are in the supplemental material).

148 **2.4 Metabolomic NMR Spectroscopy**

149 *2.4.1 ¹H-NMR sample preparation, data acquisition and processing*

150 The protocols used for this work were based on previously published methodology (Vázquez-
151 Fresno, Llorach et al. 2012). The urine samples were thawed, vortexed, and centrifuged at
152 13,200 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant (600 µL) from each urine sample was mixed with an
153 internal standard solution (120 µL, consisting of 0.1 % TSP (3-(trimethylsilyl)-propionate-
154 2,2,3,3-d₄, chemical shift reference), 2 mM of sodium azide (NaN₃, bacteriostatic agent), and
155 1.5 M KH₂PO₄ in 99 % deuterium water (D₂O)). The optimized pH of the buffer was set at 7.0,
156 with a potassium deuterioxide (KOD) solution, to minimize variations in the chemical shifts of
157 the NMR resonances. The mixture was transferred to a 5-mm NMR tube. The processed

158 spectral data were bucketed in domains of 0.005 ppm and integrated using ACD/NMR
159 Processor 12.0 software (Advanced Chemistry Development, Inc.). The spectral region between
160 4.75 and 5.00 ppm was excluded from the data set to avoid spectral interference from residual
161 water.

162 **2.5 Statistical Analysis**

163 *2.5.1 Biochemical biomarkers and phenotyping cluster differences*

164 Clusters were performed using *k*-means cluster analysis as described previously. A
165 Kolmogorov-Smirnov test ($p < 0.05$) was used to test the normality of the all variables using
166 SPSS, version 18.0 for Windows (SPSS[®], Chicago, IL, USA). ANOVA analysis was performed
167 to evaluate differences in the mean biochemical measurements across clusters where statistical
168 differences were analyzed ($p < 0.05$). Comparisons between clusters were assessed using a
169 Tukey post-hoc multiple comparison test. In the case of non-parametric variables, a Kruskal
170 Wallis test was used to test significant differences. Additionally, a Mann-Whitney test was used
171 to detect significances between clusters. All these tests were performed by SPSS, version 18.0
172 for Windows (SPSS[®], Chicago, IL, USA).

173 *2.5.2 Metabolomic cluster analysis- OSC-PLS-DA multivariate analysis*

174 Data generated from the NMR spectral integration were submitted to MetaboAnalyst (Xia,
175 Mandal et al. 2012). Data were normalized using the sum of the spectral intensities, then log
176 transformed and Pareto scaled. Data were then analyzed using the SIMCA-P+ 13 software
177 (Umetrics, Umea, Sweden) by multivariate discriminant analysis OSC-PLS-DA. A pairwise
178 comparison analysis between the four clusters was carried out. The quality of the models was
179 evaluated by the goodness-of-fit parameter (R^2X), the proportion of the variance of the response
180 variable that is explained by the model (R^2Y) and the predictive ability parameter (Q), which
181 was calculated using seven-fold internal cross-validation (Vázquez-Fresno, Llorach et al. 2014).
182 Validation of the OSC-PLS-DA models was carried out by a permutation test ($n=200$).
183 Additional information about the methodology is provided in the supplementary data. After

184 untargeted analysis with baseline samples which characterized two most discriminant clusters,
185 then, the quantification of the samples was performed for these two clusters.

186 2.5. 3 Metabolomic phenotype analysis by ANOVA

187 Quantified data were submitted to MetaboAnalyst in order to find possible differences between
188 clusters after WPI and normalized (24-h urine volume normalization, cube root transformed and
189 Pareto scaled) (Xia, Mandal et al. 2012) before further analysis. Metabolites were analyzed by a
190 one-way ANOVA test followed by Fisher's LSD test for multiple comparisons. The false
191 discovery rate (FDR) test, a statistical approach to the problem of multiple comparisons, was
192 used in this study to counter the effect of multiple testing and verify the most discriminating
193 metabolites (Benjamini and Hochberg 1995). Box-plots were used to show the statistical
194 differences between treatments with P values <0.05 being considered significant. **Figure 1**
195 displays a summary of the steps followed in this study.

196 2.6 Metabolite Identification and Quantification

197 The methyl singlet produced by a known quantity of TSP (0.97mM) was used as an internal
198 standard for chemical shift referencing (set to 0 ppm) and for quantification. The $^1\text{H-NMR}$
199 spectra were analyzed using the Chenomx NMR Suite Professional Software package (version
200 7.8; Chenomx Inc, Edmonton, ALB, Canada), which permitted both identification and
201 quantification by manually fitting the NMR spectra to an internal metabolite database.

202

203 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

204 3.1 Characterization of Clinical Phenotypes.

205 61 participants were initially recruited into this study; of these, 57 participants were included in
206 the final cluster analysis (4 were removed from the study because an incomplete biochemical
207 profile). Of the 69 baseline biochemical parameters, k -means cluster analysis classified 4

208 distinct phenotypic groups: cluster 1 (n= 12), cluster 2 (n= 13), cluster 3 (n= 14) and cluster 4
209 (n= 18). Age, smoking habits, mean dietary intake, mean concentrations of biochemical
210 parameters and statistical tests for each cluster are presented in **Table 1**. Cluster 1 was defined
211 by a significantly lower systolic blood pressure (mmHg), α 2-globulin (%) and neutrophil levels
212 (%); higher total cholesterol (mg/dL), LDL cholesterol (mg/dL), apolipoprotein B (mg/dL), and
213 apolipoprotein B/apolipoprotein A ratio (APOB/APOA), compared with all other clusters.
214 Cluster 2 showed lower LDL/HDL ratio compared with all other clusters and significantly
215 higher blood glucose levels compared to cluster 4. Cluster 3 was characterized by significantly
216 higher BMI values, α 2-globulin (%), β -globulin (%), albumin/globulin ratio, and homocysteine
217 (μ mol/L) levels and a lower albumin percentage (%) compared with the other clusters. In
218 addition, CRP values were the highest in cluster 3 and statistically significant compared with
219 clusters 1 and 4. Furthermore, glucose levels were significantly higher in cluster 3 (>126mg/dL)
220 compared with cluster 4 (<110mg/dL). More than >126mg/dL is diagnostic of T2D following
221 the American Diabetes Association (ADA) criteria. Cluster 3 had the highest but not statistically
222 significant values of the WHR index, a measure of fat distribution and also a BMI>30 indicating
223 an obese participants cluster (Apovian and Gokce 2012). There is a strong positive association
224 between obesity (measured by BMI) and risk of T2D in men (Wannamethee, Papacosta et al.
225 2010). In epidemiological studies, high plasma levels of homocysteine (hyperhomocysteinemia)
226 are considered to be a risk factor for vascular disease (Welch and Loscalzo 1998), heart failure
227 and strokes (Collaboration 2002). Among persons with T2D, the association between
228 homocysteine levels and cardiovascular disease may be stronger than that in non-diabetic
229 individuals (Ndrepepa, Kastrati et al. 2008). Moreover, cluster 3 showed the lowest HDL-
230 cholesterol levels and the highest TAG levels compared to the other clusters. These features are
231 considered risk factors for IHD (Lewington, Whitlock et al. 2007; Frikke-Schmidt,
232 Nordestgaard et al. 2008). Finally, cluster 4 showed significantly lower concentrations of TAG
233 (mg/dL), leucocyte count ($\times 10^9/L$), neutrophils ($\times 10^9/L$), lymphocytes ($\times 10^9/L$) and erythrocyte
234 sedimentation rate (mm/h) than cluster 3; also K (mEq/L) presented lower levels compared to
235 other clusters. The elevated circulating white blood cell count (neutrophils, lymphocytes and

236 monocytes) has been proposed as one of a few biomarkers of potential utility for cardiovascular
237 disease risk prediction (Horne, Anderson et al. 2005). Moreover, the erythrocyte sedimentation
238 rate (<10 mm/h) may be indicative of inflammation and a useful additional diagnostic criterion
239 for coronary heart disease (Yayan 2012). On the other hand, low serum potassium levels (<4
240 mEq/L) in a propensity-matched study was associated with higher mortality and chronic heart
241 failure (Ahmed, Zannad et al. 2007). Overall, cluster 4 had lower levels of cardiovascular
242 disease biomarkers than all other clusters (Table 1).

243 **3.2 Clinical Phenotypes and NMR-based Metabolomic Profiles**

244 After separation of the participants into 4 biochemically distinct clusters, an OSC-PLS-DA
245 analysis was performed to discriminate the clusters by their NMR-derived urinary profiles. The
246 results obtained by OSC-PLS-DA showed that the most strongly discriminated clusters were
247 cluster 3 *versus* cluster 4 (see Supplemental Material); for this reason, all subsequent analyses
248 were focused on further characterizing cluster 3 which was named the “obese and diabetic
249 cluster” (OD-c), versus cluster 4 or named the “healthier cluster” (H-c).

250 **3.3 Metabolomic Phenotype Analysis to Responses to Wine Polyphenol Intake**

251 Table 2 presents the results from the multiple comparison ANOVA analysis comparing cluster
252 OD-c and H-c before and after wine polyphenols intake (WPI). Several metabolites exhibited to
253 be associated to wine polyphenols intervention including tartrate, 4-hydroxyphenylacetate (4-
254 HPA), 3-hydroxyphenylacetate (3-HPA), mannitol, methanol threonine and fucose. Further, 4
255 metabolites presented an association to metabolic phenotype (OD-c) which includes glucose,
256 lactate betaine and dimethylamine, associated to obesity and TD2 (Xie, Waters et al. 2012;
257 Menni, Fauman et al. 2013).

258 After false discovery rate (FDR) correction, tartrate, glucose and 4-hydroxyphenylacetate (4-
259 HPA) exhibited significant results. Different patterns of response were observed for these 3
260 metabolites: Tartrate was higher for both clusters after WPI (OD-c_WPI and H-c_WPI) (*wine*
261 *polyphenols intervention metabolite*). Glucose was higher in the baseline group and after

262 intervention in cluster OD-c (OD-c_BAS, OD-c_WPI) compared with cluster H-c (H-c_BAS
263 and H-c_WPI) (*metabolic phenotype related metabolite*) characteristic for cluster OD-c. Finally,
264 4-HPA showed higher urinary excretion after WPI among subjects H-c_WPI than those in OD-
265 c_WPI and at baseline (OD-c_BAS, H-c_BAS), exhibiting a distinct post-intervention
266 metabolic response in individuals for different clusters (*metabotypic intervention effect*). Box-
267 plots show the statistical differences observed for these metabolites by multiple comparison
268 ANOVA analysis (**Figure 2**).

269 Tartrate is the major organic acid in grapes and so it is also present in wine (Son, Kim et al.
270 2008; Son, Hwang et al. 2009). Recently, it has been proposed to be a biomarker of wine
271 consumption for both interventional and epidemiological studies (Vázquez-Fresno, Llorach et
272 al. 2014). The tartrate urinary excreted amounts for OD-c_WPI were 1.06 ± 0.19 mmols
273 (84.57 ± 14.58 $\mu\text{M}/\text{mM}$ creatinine), as well as H-c_WPI 1.29 ± 0.29 μmols (107.89 ± 16.69
274 $\mu\text{M}/\text{mM}$ creatinine) in 24h-urine samples (**Table 2**). Similar to our results, a recent study
275 reported a tartrate concentration of $91.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{mg}$ creatinine (73.69 $\mu\text{M}/\text{mM}$ creatinine) measured
276 after 10h of acute wine intake (200 ml) (Regueiro, Vallverdú-Queralt et al. 2013). Additionally,
277 the presence of this metabolite at statistically significant levels in both groups after WPI
278 demonstrated a global compliance by all individuals in this intervention study.

279 The presence of glucose in urine has long been used as an indicator of diabetes mellitus
280 (Urakami, Kubota et al. 2005). T2D is characterized by the presence of glucose in urine,
281 obesity, high levels of homocysteine and CRP, which are all characteristics of cluster OD-c
282 subjects (Table 1). Moreover, there is a strong positive association between obesity (measured
283 by BMI) and T2D risk (Wannamethee, Papacosta et al. 2010). Glucose excretion amounts for
284 volunteers corresponding to the OD-c were 14.04 ± 7.56 mmols (2157.79 ± 1108.56 $\mu\text{M}/\text{mM}$
285 creatinine) and 13.78 ± 7.85 mmols (1613.70 ± 1042.12 $\mu\text{M}/\text{mM}$ creatinine) in 24h-urine samples
286 for the OD-c_BAS and OD-c_WPI groups, respectively. These values were significantly higher
287 than concentrations found in normal urine (12.5 - 58.4 $\mu\text{M}/\text{mM}$ creatinine) (Bouatra, Aziat et al.

288 2013). When reported values of glucose in urine are ≥ 100 mg/dl (5.5 mM) it is considered to be
289 a positive test for diabetes (Urakami, Kubota et al. 2005).

290 Lastly, 4-hydroxyphenylacetate (4-HPA) is a metabolite involved in tyrosine and phenylalanine
291 metabolism. Also, 4-HPA is a compound that is known to be increased in urine after
292 consumption of wine (Vázquez-Fresno, Llorach et al. 2012), chocolate (Martin, Rezzi et al.
293 2009), or cranberries (Prior, Rogers et al. 2010). This is because it is also a metabolic byproduct
294 of polyphenol degradation by gut microbiota (Moco, Martin et al. 2012), particularly *F.*
295 *prausnitzii*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Clostridium difficile*, *Subdoligranulum*, *Lactobacillus sp.* are
296 described to be responsible of metabolism of 4-HPA (Nicholson, Holmes et al. 2012). The 4-
297 HPA excretion amount for the differential response cluster (H-c_WPI) was 0.28 ± 0.03 mmols
298 (25.35 ± 1.48 $\mu\text{M}/\text{mM}$ creatinine), significantly higher than excretion values described in the
299 literature in normal conditions (1.4 - 14.6 $\mu\text{M}/\text{mM}$ creatinine) (Bouatra, Aziat et al. 2013). It has
300 been described that obese and diabetic people experience changes in gut microbial metabolites
301 as a result of these cardiovascular related pathologies (Shen, Obin et al. 2013). Some studies
302 found a decrease of *Bifidobacterium*, *F. prausnitzii*, and some species of *Clostridium* and
303 *Lactobacillus* in obese (Tagliabue and Elli 2013) and diabetic subjects (Everard and Cani 2013).
304 These findings are in agreement with our results, as lower levels of 4-HPA were found in cluster
305 OD-c than in cluster H-c after wine polyphenols intake.

306

307 4 CONCLUSIONS

308 The present study has shown that phenotypic analysis using an unsupervised clustering
309 technique (*k-means* analysis) can identify clusters according with their biochemical profiles.
310 The two most discriminating clusters were named according to their clinical parameters and
311 identified as the “obese and diabetic cluster” (OD-c) and the “healthier cluster” (H-c).
312 Moreover, metabolomic phenotyping using NMR detected a distinct metabolic response
313 between individuals grouped in these phenotypic clusters. In particular, comparisons between

314 OD-c and H-c exhibited different levels of excretion of 4-HPA after wine polyphenols intake.
315 Likewise, a metabolite linked with a specific metabotype (glucose) and another metabolite
316 linked with dietary intervention (tartrate) were also observed. According to our results subjects
317 in OD-c could have altered the gut metabolism compared to individuals of H-c. Lastly, this
318 approach showed that clinical phenotyping combined with metabolomic analysis can produce
319 interesting quantitative results, providing new insights about the relationship between diet, gut
320 microbiota and health.

321

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333

334 Abbreviations: WPI: wine polyphenols intake; BAS: baseline period; H-c: Healthier cluster;
335 OD-c: obese and diabetic cluster; CVD: cardiovascular disease; CHD: coronary heart disease;
336 T2D: type 2 Diabetes Mellitus; LDL: low density lipoprotein; HDL: high density lipoprotein;
337 BMI: body mass index; TAG: triacylglycerides; WHR: waist-to-hip index; OSC-PLS-DA:

- 338 Orthogonal signal correction partial least-squares discriminant analysis; 4-HPA: 4-
339 hydroxyphenylacetate; FDR: false discovery rate

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471 TABLES

472 **Table 1.** Biochemical and anthropometrical parameters of subjects and mean baseline
 473 concentrations of individuals clusters. *P*-values of ANOVA test (*) for parametric variables and
 474 Kruskal Wallis test (♦) for non-parametric variables, (*p*<0.05) for both tests. Superscript
 475 numbers (^{1,2,3,4}) indicate differences between number cluster shown, in Tukey post-hoc test (for
 476 parametrical variables) and Mann-Whitney test.(for non-parametrical variables).

	Cluster 1 (n=12)	Cluster 2 (n=13)	Cluster 3 (n=14)	Cluster 4 (n=18)	<i>p</i> -value
<u>Characteristics</u>					
Age (y)	59.83 ± 8.62	62.08 ± 10.84	61.21 ± 5.98	59.78 ± 8.13	0.87 ⁺
Current smokers (%)	1.75 ± 0.45	1.85 ± 0.38	1.86 ± 0.36	1.72 ± 0.46	0.14♦
<u>Dietary Data</u>					
Energy (MJ)	8074.70 ± 211.65	8046.42±1738.6 3	8347.50±1909.31	7387.47 ± 1838.73	0.54 ⁺
TE protein (%)	21.37 ± 1.97	20.55 ± 3.17	19.86 ± 4.04	21.12 ± 3.94	0.70 ⁺
TE carbohydrates (%)	43.19 ± 7.02	40.57 ± 8.58	43.05 ± 8.27	41.90 ± 7.03	0.83 ⁺
TE fat (%)	33.68 ± 6.60	37.31 ± 7.36	36.44 ± 6.26	36.22 ± 4.54	0.56 ⁺
<u>Anthropometrical and biochemical parameters</u>					
BMI (kg/m ²)	28.17 ± 2.62	27.33 ± 2.78	33.56 ± 4.01 ^{1,2,4}	29.02 ± 3.86	<0.001 ⁺
Waist-hip ratio	0.94 ± 0.05	0.98 ± 0.03	0.99 ± 0.05 ¹	0.96 ± 0.04	0.01 ⁺
Heart Rate (beats/min)	72.17 ± 11.85	69.69 ± 7.09	68.71 ± 10.71	68.78 ± 8.94	0.78 ⁺
Systolic blood pressure (mm Hg)	124.58 ± 15.08 ^{2,3,4}	153.54 ± 17.58	143.14 ± 13.79	141.22 ± 12.06	<0.001 ⁺
Diastolic blood pressure (mm Hg)	81.58 ± 9.1	79.23 ± 7.36	77.00 ± 9.14	84.50 ± 8.59	0.098 ⁺
CRP (mg/dL)	0.15 ± 0.09	0.27 ± 0.31	0.37 ± 0.29 ^{1,4}	0.14 ± 0.18 ^{2,3}	0.028♦
Glucose (mg/dL)	101.25 ± 20.87	119.92 ± 28.62	132.07 ± 53.84 ^{1,4}	95.22 ± 18.10 ^{2,3}	0.01♦
Diuresi 24h (mL)	1587.50 ± 621.35	1946.15 ±753.45 ⁴	1470.00 ± 441.46	1339.56±425.43	0.03 ⁺

Plasmatic creatinine (mg/dL)	1.01 ± 0.17	0.96 ± 0.19	1.02 ± 0.11	0.96 ± 0.11	0.52 ⁺
Uric acid (mg/dL)	6.58 ± 1.47	6.10 ± 0.85	6.89 ± 1.38	6.11 ± 0.78	0.19 ⁺
Na (mEq/L)	141.75 ± 2.14	141.15 ± 1.77	141.36 ± 2.06	140.72 ± 1.49	0.50 ⁺
K (mEq/L)	4.28 ± 0.23	4.19 ± 0.36	4.24 ± 0.33	3.90 ± 0.24 ^{1,2,3}	0.002 ⁺
P (mEq/L)	3.66 ± 0.61 ²	3.02 ± 0.49	3.40 ± 0.58	3.09 ± 0.67	0.03 ⁺
Mg (mEq/L)	2.07 ± 0.19	2.21 ± 0.31	2.02 ± 0.15	2.12 ± 0.16	0.13 ⁺
Fe (mEq/L)	85.00 ± 23.65	99.38 ± 26.96	75.43 ± 21.18	94.89 ± 30.19	0.084 ⁺
Total cholesterol (mg/dL)	243.83±36.28 ^{2,3,4}	189.69 ± 14.68	184.79 ± 20.79	203.28 ± 40.97	<0.001 ⁺
LDL cholesterol (mg/dL)	167.33 ±32.82 ^{2,3,4}	116.92 ± 14.14	114.71 ± 17.87	137.67 ± 33.57	<0.001 ⁺
HDL cholesterol (mg/dL)	48.92 ± 13.14	52.46 ± 9.98	37.86 ± 5.07 ^{1,2}	46.61 ± 10.09	0.003 ⁺
LDL cholesterol:HDL cholesterol ratio	3.61 ± 1.06	2.31 ± 0.54 ^{1,3,4}	3.06 ± 0.50	2.98 ± 0.53	<0.001 ⁺
Triglycerides (mg/dL)	138.17 ± 59.29	101.69 ± 33.27	160.71 ± 73.14 ^{2,4}	95.61 ± 35.28	0.03 ⁺
Apolipoprotein APOA1 (mg/dL)	146.58 ± 23.36	157.92 ± 14.83 ³	138.43 ± 15.16	147.33 ± 17.28	0.05 ⁺
Apolipoprotein APOB (mg/dL)	136.42 ± 24.98 ^{2,3,4}	98.85 ± 13.37	103.36 ± 13.89	106.50 ± 19.96	<0.001 ⁺
APOB/A ratio	0.95 ± 0.23 ^{2,3,4}	0.63 ± 0.095	0.76 ± 0.15	0.72 ± 0.086	<0.001 ⁺
ASAT (UI/L)	30.08 ± 13.56	23.23 ± 4.92	28.14 ± 10.6	24.39 ± 6.05	0.203 [♦]
ALAT (UI/L)	44.42 ± 41.39	26.15 ± 8.97	31.21 ± 16.33	28.83 ± 15.03	0.230 [♦]
GGT (UI/L)	42.00 ± 33.68	26.08 ± 7.95	36.71 ± 25.78	27.22 ± 17.36	0.450 [♦]
Bilirubin (mg/dL)	0.77 ± 0.31	0.85 ± 0.26 ³	0.56 ± 0.12 ²	0.73 ± 0.25	0.024 [♦]
Alkaline phosphatase (UI/L)	135.00 ± 20.69	162.54 ± 53.67	127.29 ± 31.30	135.28±34.03	0.082 ⁺
Lactate DH (UI/L)	327.83 ± 64.77	305.31 ± 16.25	340.50 ± 63.66	357.39±46.26	0.104 ⁺
Total proteins (g/L)	74.08 ± 2.64	73.46 ± 3.69	72.14 ± 2.69	69.94±2.75 ^{1,2}	0.001 ⁺
Albumin (g/L)	47.33 ± 1.92	47.31 ± 1.88 ^{3,4}	44.00 ± 2.77	43.39 ± 1.82	<0.001 ⁺
Albumin (%)	65.87 ± 2.11	64.79 ± 2.49	60.32 ± 3.82 ^{1,2,4}	63.36 ± 2.53	<0.001 ⁺

α1 globulin (%)	2.76 ± 0.22 ^{3,4}	3.10 ± 0.46	3.53 ± 0.48	3.27 ± 0.62	0.002 ⁺
α2 globulin (%)	5.93 ± 0.74 ^{2,3,4}	7.39 ± 1.14	9.10 ± 1.62 ^{1,2,4}	7.25 ± 1.49	<0.001 ⁺
B globulin (%)	11.19 ± 0.76	11.21 ± 1.28	12.80 ± 1.83 ^{1,2,4}	11.02 ± 0.87	0.001 ⁺
Γ globulin (%)	14.25 ± 1.99	13.52 ± 2.04	14.25 ± 2.68	15.10 ± 1.77	0.25 ⁺
Albumin:globulin ratio	1.94 ± 0.18	1.85 ± 0.21	1.54 ± 0.24 ^{1,2,4}	1.74 ± 0.19	<0.001 ⁺
Ferritine(ng/mL)	167.92 ± 102.02	187.85 ± 166.93	179.07 ± 144.77	208.56±152.61	0.89 ⁺
Folic acid (serum) (ng/mL)	9.50 ± 3.43	10.98 ± 2.79	8.51 ± 3.52	10.27 ± 4.65	0.36 ⁺
Intraerythrocytary folic acid (ng/mL)	333.27 ± 79.13	401.54 ± 69.95	417.57 ± 107.39	374.38 ± 80.27	0.08 ⁺
Vitamin B-12 (pg/mL)	525.58 ± 368.70	428.85 ± 145.05	377.07 ± 139.37	380.44±110.63	0.29 [♦]
Homocysteine (μmol /L)	11.07 ± 2.60	11.17 ± 1.24 ^{1,2,4}	14.31 ± 4.28	11.26 ± 1.79	0.005 ⁺
Hemoglobin concentration (g/L)	152.75 ± 9.92	151.00 ± 11.77	143.57 ± 9.15	147.33 ± 8.09	0.08 ⁺
Hematocrit (L/L)	0.45 ± 0.03	0.45 ± 0.03	0.43 ± 0.03	0.44 ± 0.025	0.16 ⁺
Erythrocyte mean corpuscular volume (fL)	89.80 ± 2.59	91.05 ± 3.73	90.35 ± 5.30	88.78 ± 3.35	0.42 ⁺
Mean corpuscular hemoglobin (pg)	30.20 ± 0.93	30.82 ± 0.98	30.31 ± 1.89	29.88 ± 1.16	0.28 ⁺
Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration (g/L)	336.25 ± 5.15	338.45 ± 4.74	335.57 ± 7.44	336.56 ± 9.99	0.78 ⁺
Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (mm/h)	7.08 ± 4.44	8.08 ± 3.86	11.07 ± 5.26 ^{1,4}	5.44 ± 2.31 ^{2,3}	0.003 [♦]
Reed distribution width (%)	13.06 ± 0.58 ⁴	13.17 ± 0.59	13.59 ± 0.66	13.68 ± 0.53	0.01 ⁺
Hemoglobin distribution width (g/L)	25.74 ± 1.46	24.49 ± 1.96	25.51 ± 2.65	26.03 ± 2.18	0.24 ⁺
Platelet count (x109/L)	282.17 ± 56.36 ⁴	233.54 ± 45.98	264.64 ± 63.99	220.17 ± 33.78	0.006 ⁺

Mean platelet volume (fL)	8.27 ± 0.47	9.11 ± 0.74	8.85 ± 0.72	8.89 ± 0.99	0.05 ⁺
Leucocyte count (x10⁹/L)	6.84 ± 1.73	7.09 ± 0.88	7.96 ± 1.23 ⁴	6.15 ± 1.30	0.004 ⁺
Neutrophils (%)	50.45 ± 5.82 ^{2,3,4}	63.84 ± 8.78	58.26 ± 4.43	58.21 ± 6.32	<0.001 ⁺
Lymphocytes (%)	35.83 ± 4.42 ^{2,4}	24.90 ± 7.07	29.90 ± 5.06	29.83 ± 5.87	<0.001 ⁺
Monocytes (%)	6.58 ± 1.07	5.85 ± 1.09	6.44 ± 0.88	7.47 ± 0.63 ^{2,3}	<0.001 ⁺
Eosinophils (%)	4.12 ± 2.04 ^{2,4}	2.65 ± 1.23	2.77 ± 1.19	2.15 ± 0.72	0.002 ⁺
Basophils (%)	0.71 ± 0.25	0.79 ± 0.39 ⁴	0.57 ± 0.2	0.49 ± 0.19	0.01 ⁺
Unclassified cells (%)	2.16 ± 0.95	1.99 ± 0.93	2.05 ± 0.50	1.86 ± 0.56	0.726 ⁺
Neutrophils (x10⁹/L)	3.49 ± 1.11	4.55 ± 0.89 ^{1,4}	4.63 ± 0.79 ^{1,4}	3.56 ± 0.84	0.001 ⁺
Lymphocytes (x10⁹/L)	2.43 ± 0.61 ^{2,4}	1.75 ± 0.46 ^{1,3}	2.39 ± 0.56 ^{2,4}	1.85 ± 0.57	0.002 ⁺
Monocytes (x10⁹/L)	0.45 ± 0.12	0.42 ± 0.10	0.52 ± 0.13	0.45 ± 0.10	0.24 [♦]
Eosinophil (x10⁹/L)	0.27 ± 0.15	0.19 ± 0.086	0.21 ± 0.09	0.13 ± 0.05 ^{1,2,3}	0.001 [♦]
Basophils (x10⁹/L)	0.05 ± 0.03	0.05 ± 0.04	0.03 ± 0.04	0.08 ± 0.01 ^{1,2}	0.002 [♦]
Unclassified cells (x10⁹/L)	0.16 ± 0.06	0.15 ± 0.06	0.17 ± 0.05 ⁴	0.11 ± 0.05 ^{1,3}	0.029 [♦]
Prothrombin time (%)	97.58 ± 3.68 ⁴	95.54 ± 5.72	96.00 ± 4.93	92.50 ± 5.83	0.126 [♦]
Prothrombin time (seg)	13.07 ± 0.45	13.23 ± 0.78	13.29 ± 0.47	13.56 ± 0.67	0.186 ⁺
Thromboplastin partial time (seg)	28.48 ± 0.89	26.65 ± 7.97	26.38 ± 7.55	29.35 ± 2.11	0.386 ⁺
Fibrinogen (g/L)	3.18 ± 0.51	4.08 ± 0.82 ^{1,4}	3.73 ± 0.62	3.18 ± 0.37	<0.001 ⁺

477 All values are mean ± SD, *p*-values are based on simple ANOVA test (⁺) for parametric variables and
478 Kruskal Wallis test ([♦]) for non-parametric variables, (*p*<0.05 for both tests); Superscript numbers
479 adjacent to values from each cluster denote a significant difference between indicated cluster number
480 based on Tukey post-hoc test (for parametrical variables) and Mann-Whitney test.(for non-parametrical
481 variables). TE protein %: protein as percentage of total energy intake; TE carbohydrate%: carbohydrate as
482 percentage of total energy intake; TE fat %: fat as percentage of total energy intake. PCR: c-reactive
483 protein; BMI: body mass index; ASAT: aspartate aminotransferase; ALAT: alanine aminotransferase;
484 GGT:gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase; Na: sodium; K: potassium; P: phosphorous; Mg: Magnesium; Fe:
485 iron. DH: dehydrogenase;

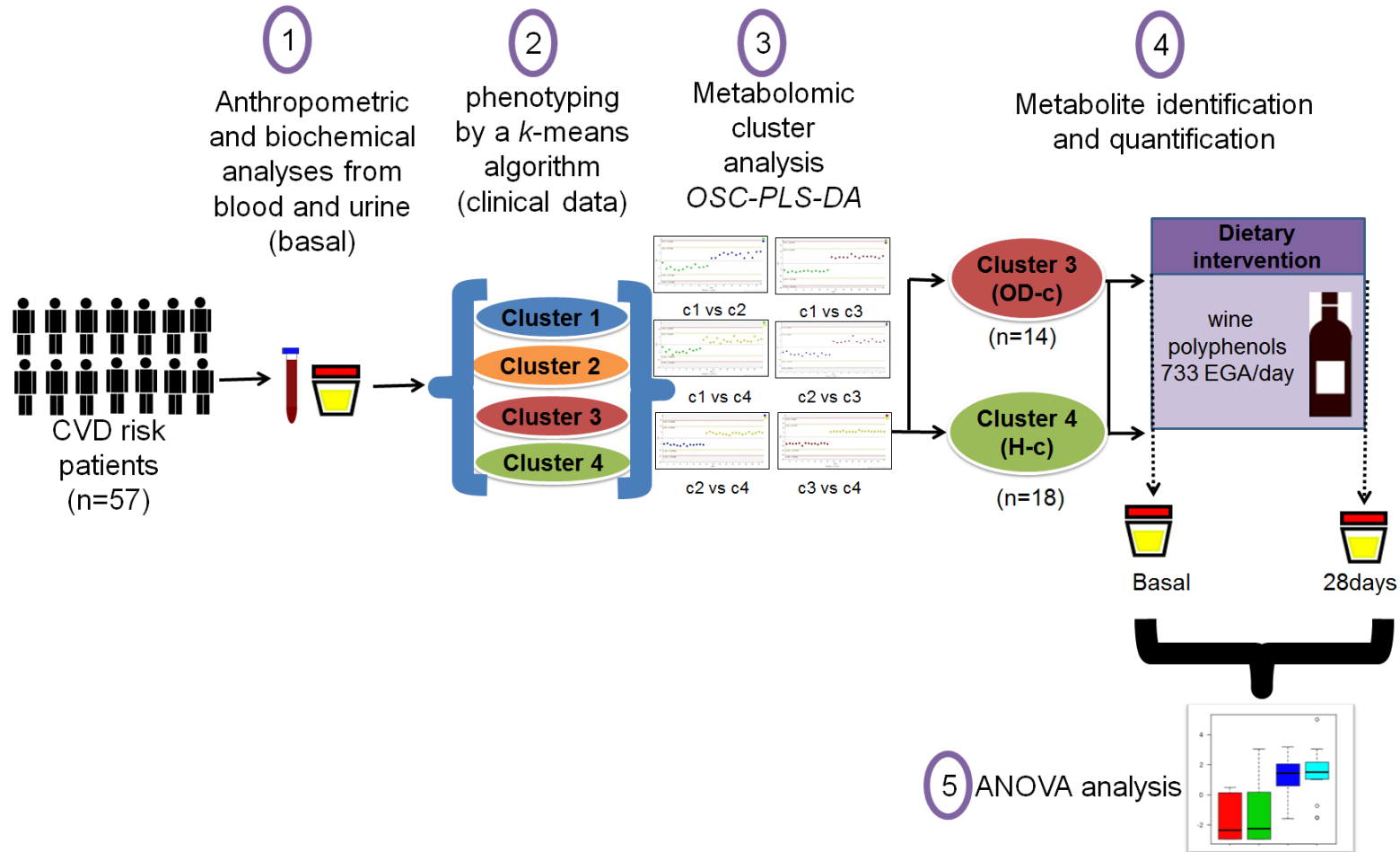
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487 **Table 2.** Urinary excretion amounts [mmols, 24h-urine] of metabolites after ANOVA analysis, in parenthesis $\mu\text{M}/\text{mM}$ creatinine. OD-c_BAS: obese and
488 diabetic cluster in basal period; H-c_BAS: healthier cluster in basal period; OD-c_WPI: obese and diabetic cluster after wine polyphenols intake; H-c_WPI:
489 healthier cluster after wine polyphenol intake. WPI: wine polyphenols intake; MTP: metabotype.4-HPA: 4-hydroxyphenylacetate; 3-HPA: 3-
490 hydroxyphenylacetate. DMA: dimethylamine.

491

MEAN ± SEM; mmols, 24h (μM/mM creatinine)							
Metabolite	OD-c_BAS	H-c_BAS	OD-c_WPI	H-c_WPI	<i>p</i> -value	<i>FDR p</i> -value	Metabolite information
Tartrate	0.140 ± 0.052 (14.16 ± 5.78)	0.451 ± 0.019 (39.83 ± 14.74)	1.065 ± 0.19 (84.57 ± 14.58)	1.292 ± 0.285 (107.89 ± 16.69)	7.09E-07	6.02E-05	WPI
Glucose	14.044 ± 7.562 (2157.79 ± 1108.56)	0.210 ± 0.019 (19.95 ± 1.61)	13.786 ± 7.850 (1613.70 ± 1042.12)	0.188 ± 0.038 (16.53 ± 2.08)	0.0001	0.005	MTP
4-HPA	0.170 ± 0.025 (17.23 ± 2.04)	0.163 ± 0.013 (15.52 ± 1.13)	0.184 ± 0.022 (16.23 ± 1.95)	0.280 ± 0.029 (25.35 ± 1.48)	0.0008	0.02	WPI-MTP
3-HPA	0.056 ± 0.01 (40.71 ± 8.34)	0.062 ± 0.005 (48.39 ± 3.99)	0.0856 ± 0.016 (56.04 ± 10.97)	0.101 ± 0.012 (75.7 ± 10.43)	0.01	0.18	WPI
Mannitol	0.556 ± 0.112 (462.62 ± 142.13)	0.782 ± 0.144 (646.87 ± 132.08)	1.223 ± 0.157 (804.66 ± 117.30)	1.312 ± 0.255 (957.04 ± 210.15)	0.005	0.99	WPI
Threonine	0.094 ± 0.014 (9.07 ± 1.17)	0.107 ± 0.013 (10.33 ± 1.51)	0.141 ± 0.013 (12.64 ± 2.19)	0.173 ± 0.032 (15.00 ± 1.99)	0.02	0.18	WPI
Methanol	0.473 ± 0.077 (46.83 ± 6.80)	0.436 ± 0.050 (39.99 ± 3.72)	0.682 ± 0.133 (51.02 ± 5.07)	0.676 ± 0.076 (59.91 ± 3.82)	0.03	0.30	WPI
Fucose	0.32 ± 0.04 (30.58 ± 2.36)	0.327 ± 0.023 (30.55 ± 1.81)	0.503 ± 0.069 (39.01 ± 4.56)	0.495 ± 0.081 (42.84 ± 3.87)	0.04	0.31	WPI
Lactate	0.516 ± 0.19 (65.56 ± 34.17)	0.212 ± 0.075 (19.77 ± 1.37)	0.432 ± 0.087 (37.83 ± 11.02)	0.294 ± 0.030 (26.09 ± 1.80)	0.04	0.33	MTP
Betaine	0.549 ± 0.217 (56.01 ± 21.61)	0.207 ± 0.030 (19.36 ± 2.64)	0.676 ± 0.245 (53.77 ± 18.74)	0.214 ± 0.037 (18.83 ± 2.28)	0.02	0.18	MTP
DMA	0.469 ± 0.021 (51.68 ± 7.82)	0.503 ± 0.048 (45.89 ± 3.20)	0.905 ± 0.230 (65.36 ± 8.11)	0.568 ± 0.078 (51.21 ± 4.62)	0.02	0.18	MTP

493 **FIGURE LEGEND**



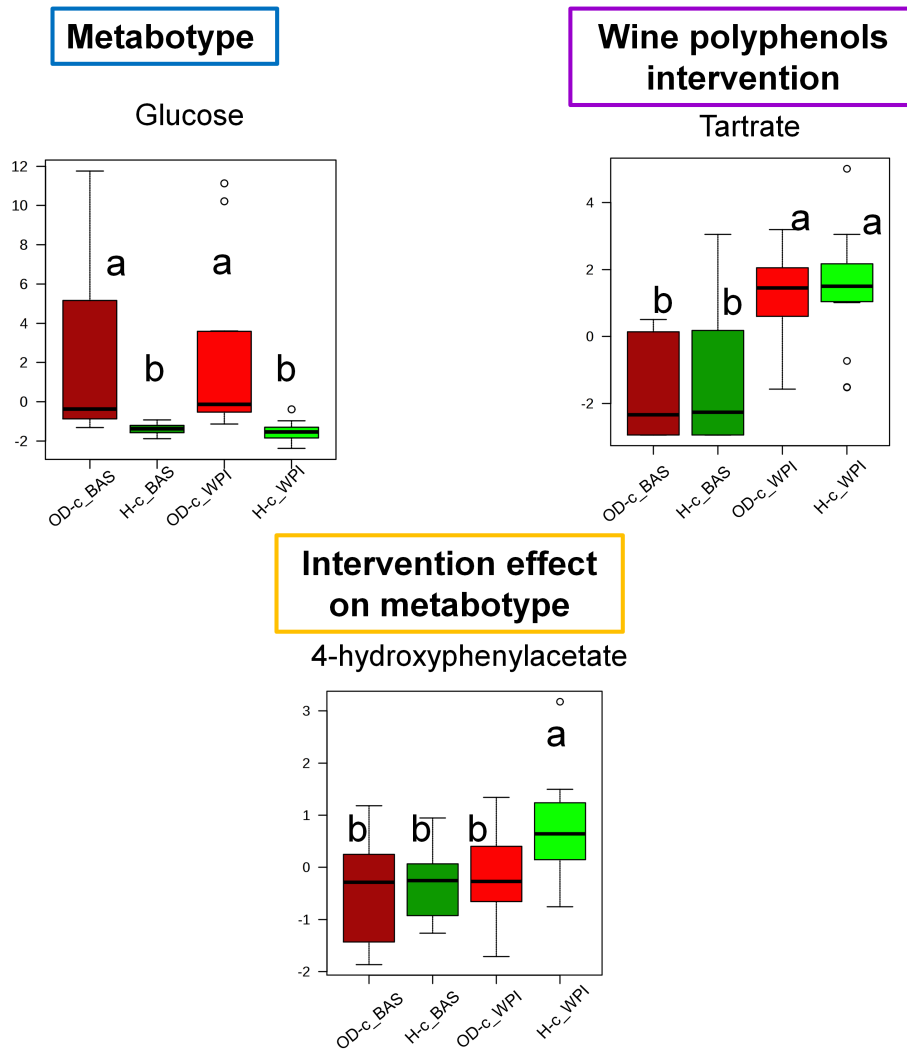
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Figure 1. Methodological strategy steps followed in the present study. CVD: cardiovascular disease; c: cluster; OD-c: obese and diabetic cluster; H-c:

496

healthier cluster. OSC-PLS-DA: partial least-squares discriminant analysis with orthogonal signal correction. EGA: equivalents of gallic acid



497

498 **Figure 2.** Box-plots of the metabolites derived from ANOVA test ($p < 0.05$ after FDR
 499 correction). Different letters indicate significant differences between interventions. OD-c_BAS:
 500 obese and diabetic cluster in basal period; H-c_BAS: healthier cluster in basal period; OD-
 501 c_WPI: obese and diabetic cluster after wine polyphenols intake; H-c_WPI: healthier cluster
 502 after wine polyphenols intake.