Bioinformatic Analysis for Potential Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets of T2DM-related MI

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Background: Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), a major risk factor of coronary heart disease, is associated with an approximately twofold increase in the risk of myocardial infarction (MI). We studied co-expressed genes to demonstrate relationships between DM and MI and revealed the potential biomarkers and therapeutic targets of T2DM-related MI.

Methods: DM and MI-related differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were identified by bioinformatic analysis, Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) datasets GSE42148 and GSE61144 of MI patients, and the normal control and GSE26168 and GSE15932 of DM patients and normal controls, respectively. Further target prediction and network analysis method were used to detect protein-protein interaction (PPI) networks, gene ontology (GO) terms, and pathway enrichment of DEGs. Co-expressed DEGs of T2DM-related MI were analyzed as well.

Results: We identified 210 upregulated and 127 downregulated DEGs in T2DM, as well as 264 upregulated and 242 downregulated DEGs in MI. Eighteen upregulated and four downregulated DEGs were identified as co-DEGs of T2DM and MI. Functional analysis revealed that T2DM-related DEGs were mostly enriched in the viral process and ubiquitin-mediated proteolysis, while MI-related DEGs were mostly enriched in protein phosphorylation and TNF signaling pathway. MPO, MMP9, CAMP, LTF, AZU1, DEF44, STAT3, and PECAM1 were recognized as the hub genes of the co-DEGs with acceptable diagnostic values in T2DM and MI datasets. Adenosine receptor agonist IB-MECA was predicted to be a potential drug for T2DM-related MI with the highest Cmap connectivity score.

Conclusion: Our study identified that the co-DEGs of MPO, MMP9, CAMP, LTF, AZU1, DEF44, STAT3, and PECAM1 are significantly associated with novel biomarkers involved in T2DM-related MI. However, more experimental research and clinical trials are demanded to verify our results.

Keywords: myocardial infarction, diabetes mellitus, Gene Expression Omnibus, differentially expressed genes, protein-protein interaction

Introduction
Diabetes mellitus (DM), an increasingly common metabolic disorder, is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality and creates a significant public health burden.1 The latest number of diabetes patients is expected to increase to 642 million by 2040, which will further increase the economic burden on society.2 The economic burden associated with DM is primarily attributed to both macrovascular and microvascular dysfunction and complications.3 Abundant studies indicated that T2DM is associated with a substantially increased risk of all-cause death, especially myocardial infarction, peripheral artery diseases, retinopathy, end-stage renal disease, and neuropathy.4–6

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It is well-known that myocardial infarction (MI) is another common problem resulting in cardiovascular events, including cardiac death and heart failure. Diabetes is an independent risk factor of MI. In fact, MI is the leading cause of death among patients with DM, and individuals with DM are at increased risk of recurrent cardiovascular events and mortality after MI. Clinical studies indicated that mortality rates post-MI are two-fold higher in DM than non-DM patients, and the rate of cardiovascular death is increased by 4.4-fold in DM alone without other traditional cardiovascular factors compared with non-DM in the same age groups. The FAST-MI study suggested that patients with DM had a 70% increased risk of being hospitalized for non-fatal heart failure in the year following MI (adjusted hazard ratio 1.70), which shed much-needed light on the impact of DM on heart failure after acute MI. Partial studies revealed some molecular pathways including decreased mitophagy and metabolic dysfunction that contributes to the death from MI related to DM. However, the related genetics research for finding prognostic markers is still limited and demands further exploration.

In the present study, two gene expression profiles for MI and T2DM were downloaded and analyzed. Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) between normal controls and MI or T2DM were found, and the co-expressed DEGs of the two diseases were obtained as well. Gene ontology (GO), Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) and protein-protein interaction (PPI) analysis were conducted to detect the hub genes. Consequently, hub DEGs and the related molecular pathways may be better to understand the relationship between T2DM and MI.

Methods

Data Resources

Gene expression profile data of peripheral blood samples from T2DM and MI patients were searched in the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geoprofiles/). GSE26168 with nine T2DM patients and eight controls, GSE15932 with eight T2DM patients and eight controls, GSE42148 with blood samples of 13 MI patients and 11 controls, and GSE61144 with 14 MI patients and 10 controls were downloaded for analyses in this study. The detailed information of these datasets was shown in Table 1. Since these datasets were obtained from public databases, ethical approval was not necessary.

Identification of DEGs

To preprocess the data and screen DEGs between patients and controls, limma package in R-platform (R-project.org) was used and statistical difference was defined as p-value <0.05. Fold change (FC) was identified by calculating the ratio of gene expression level in patients and controls. Logarithmic operation with 2 as a base number was adopted to help with the comparison. Those with log2 FC <0 were considered as downregulated genes, and log2 FC >0 were considered as upregulated genes. In addition, heat maps and Venn diagrams for DEGs were created via R-platform. The relative codes were provided as Appendix 1.

Functional and Pathway Enrichment Analyses

To better understanding the function of DEGs, DAVID software (https://david.ncifcrf.gov/) was used to conduct gene ontology (GO), including biological process (BP), cellular component (CC), and molecular function (MF), and KEGG pathway enrichment analysis of T2DM- and MI-DEGs. A p-value of <0.05 was recognized as significantly enriched.

Protein-protein Interaction (PPI) Analysis

PPI networks of T2DM-, MI- and co-DEGs were established via the online tool STRING (http://string-db.org/) and analytic results were downloaded with a confidence score >0.40. Hub genes and core modules, which included a cluster of proteins with the highest degree of interaction in PPI network, were selected and visualized by Cytoscape (http://cytospace.org/) subsequently.

Table 1 Details of Datasets

| Disease | GEO ID      | Platform   | Organism   | Experiment Type              | Samples (Case vs Control) | Country     | Year   |
|---------|-------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------|
| T2DM    | GSE26168    | GPL6883    | Homo sapiens | Expression profiling by array | 9 vs 8                    | Singapore   | 2010   |
|         | GSE15932    | GPL570     | Homo sapiens | Expression profiling by array | 8 vs 8                    | China       | 2012   |
| MI      | GSE42148    | GPL13607   | Homo sapiens | Expression profiling by array | 13 vs 11                  | India       | 2012   |
|         | GSE61144    | GPL6106    | Homo sapiens | Expression profiling by array | 14 vs 10                  | South Korea | 2015   |

Abbreviations: T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus; MI, myocardial infarction.
Conduction of Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) Curves

Graph Prism 6 was applied to conduct ROC curves and calculate the area under the curve (AUC) of the hub genes of co-DEGs, which represented the diagnostic efficiency of genes. A p-value of <0.05 was regarded as statistically significant.

Prediction of Potential Drugs for T2DM-related MI

Upregulated co-DEGs were submitted to L1000 platform (https://clue.io/), and potential drugs for T2DM-related MI were predicted. CMap connectivity score >90 or CMap connectivity score < -90 was considered to be the standard for recognizing potentially effective drugs.

Results

Identification of DEGs

When comparing the blood samples of T2DM patients and normal controls, 1870 upregulated and 2156 downregulated genes were identified in GSE26168, while 3188 upregulated and 1400 downregulated genes were identified in GSE15932. As shown in Figure 1, 210 common upregulated and 127 common downregulated genes of GSE26168 and GSE15932 were recognized as T2DM-DEGs. As for MI patients compared with controls, 1910 upregulated and 1847 downregulated genes were identified in GSE42148, while 2046 upregulated and 3170 downregulated genes were identified in GSE61144. In addition, 264 common upregulated and 242 common downregulated genes were recognized as MI-DEGs. Subsequently, co-DEGs were analyzed as MI-DEGs with MI-DEGs, where 18 upregulated DEGs and four downregulated DEGs were identified (Figure 1). T2DM, MI- and co-DEGs were listed in Supplement Table 1, while heatmaps of the DEGs with largest fold change were presented in Supplement Figures 1 and 2.

Functional Enrichment Analysis

GO analysis revealed that T2DM DEG-related biological processes (BP) mainly enriched in viral process (p-value=0.0001), proteasome-mediated ubiquitin-dependent protein catabolic process (p-value=0.0004), and positive regulation of peptidyl-serine phosphorylation (p-value=0.0091). Changes in GO cellular components (CC) mainly included extracellular exosome (p-value=0.0008), nucleoplasm (p-value=0.0025), and cytosol (p-value=0.0047). There was significant correlation in GABA receptor binding (p-value=0.0019), protein binding (p-value=0.0043), and ubiquitin conjugating enzyme activity (p-value=0.0153) in relation to molecular function (MF) (Figure 2A).

With respect to MI-DEGs, the BP terms of protein phosphorylation (p-value <0.0001), inflammatory response (p-value = 0.0001) and mitochondrial translational elongation (p-value=0.0003) were significantly enriched. In the CC category, enriched GO terms were associated with mitochondrial large ribosomal subunit (p-value=0.0001), cytosol (p-value=0.0005), and mitochondrial inner membrane (p-value=0.0007). In addition, the terms of protein binding (p-value <0.0001),
protein serine/threonine kinase activity (p-value <0.0001), and protein kinase activity (p-value=0.00026) related MF were enriched (Figure 3A).

KEGG pathway analysis was also performed and T2DM-DEGs were majorly enriched in the pathway of ubiquitin-mediated proteolysis (p-value=0.0020), osteoclast differentiation (p-value=0.0184), and viral carcinogenesis (p-value=0.0256), while MI-DEGs had a strong correlation with TNF signaling pathway (p-value=0.0051), tuberculosis (p-value=0.0074), and VEGF signaling pathway (p-value=0.0101), which were illustrated in Figures 2B and 3B.

PPI Network Analysis
We identified 253, 421, and 12 nodes, and 572, 1377, and 20 edges from PPI network of T2DM-, MI- and co-DEGs, respectively. UBE3A, CDC23, WWP1, SMURF2, HACE1, CUL5, SIAH2, KBTBD8, CDC34, and UBE2H were recognized as hub genes in T2DM-DEGs (Figure 4), while AKT1, STAT3, TLR8, TLR2, MMP9, PTGS2, CXCL1, CCL5, MPO, and CD40LG were the top 10 hub genes of MI-DEGs (Figure 5). With respect to co-DEGs, MPO, MMP9, CAMP, LTF, AZU1, DEFA4, STAT3, and PECAM1 had much abundant connectivity (Figure 6). Details of the hub genes were presented in Table 2.

Diagnostic Value of Hub Genes of Co-DEGs
ROC curves were constructed to validate the diagnostic value of the hub genes of the co-DEGs in T2DM and MI datasets, respectively. As shown in Figure 7, The AUC for AZU1, CAMP, DEFA4, LTF, MMP9, MPO, PECAM1, and STAT3 in T2DM patients were 0.986 (0.943–1.030), 0.861 (0.677–1.045), 0.931 (0.807–1.054), 0.903 (0.755–1.051), 0.986 (0.943–1.030), 0.958 (0.866–1.051), 0.833 (0.637–
1.030), and 0.819 (0.596–1.043), respectively. As for MI patients, the AUC for these co-DEGs were 0.757 (0.558–0.957), 0.932 (0.827–1.038), 0.829 (0.666–0.991), 0.800 (0.621–0.979), 0.929 (0.829–1.028), 0.814 (0.641–0.988), 0.821 (0.655–0.988), and 0.836 (0.674–0.998), respectively (Figure 8).

Figure 4 Protein-protein interaction (PPI) analysis (A) and hub genes; (B) of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) related differentially expressed genes (DEGs).

Figure 5 Protein-protein interaction (PPI) analysis (A) and hub genes; (B) of myocardial infarction (MI) related differentially expressed genes (DEGs).
Potential drugs for T2DM-related MI were analyzed by uploading the 18 upregulated co-DEGs to L1000 platform, while the top 10 and bottom 10 chemical compounds ranked by CMap connectivity score were listed in Table 3.

### Discussion

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and myocardial infarction (MI) represent two major health burdens with steadily increasing prevalence and mortality. T2DM is a chronic disorder that is characterized by hyperglycemia and insulin resistance. It has been recognized as an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease including atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, and nephropathy. Much evidence has demonstrated that the pathogenesis of diabetes mellitus and atherosclerosis have a strong correlation, while the mechanisms of the connection between diabetes and atherosclerosis are not fully elucidated. The production of advanced glycation end-products (AGEs), increased oxidative stress, endothelium injury, inflammation, dyslipidemia were investigated to contribute to diabetes mellitus to

### Table 2 Hub Genes Identified in PPI Network

| Groups       | Gene   | Description                                      | Degree of Connectivity |
|--------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| T2DM DEGs    | UBE3A  | Ubiquitin protein ligase E3A                      | 19                     |
|              | CDC23  | Cell Division cycle 23                           | 15                     |
|              | WWF1   | WW domain containing E3 ubiquitin protein ligase | 14                     |
|              | SMURF2 | SMAD specific E3 ubiquitin protein ligase 2      | 14                     |
|              | HACE1  | HECT domain and ankyrin repeat containing E3     | 13                     |
|              | CUL5   | Cullin 5                                         | 13                     |
|              | SIAH2  | Siah E3 ubiquitin protein ligase 2               | 12                     |
|              | KBTBD8 | Kelch repeat and BTB domain containing 8         | 12                     |
|              | CDC34  | Cell division cycle 34, ubiquitin conjugating     | 12                     |
|              | UBE2H  | Ubiquitin conjugating enzyme E2 H                | 11                     |
| MI DEGs      | AKT1   | AKT serine/threonine kinase 1                    | 64                     |
|              | STAT3  | Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 | 48                   |
|              | TLR8   | Toll like receptor 8                             | 36                     |
|              | TLR2   | Toll like receptor 2                             | 36                     |
|              | MMP9   | Matrix metallopeptidase 9                        | 35                     |
|              | PTGS2  | Prostaglandin-endoperoxide synthase 2            | 34                     |
|              | CXCL1  | C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 1                   | 32                     |
|              | CCL5   | C-C motif chemokine ligand 5                     | 27                     |
|              | MPO    | Myeloperoxidase                                  | 26                     |
|              | CD40LG | CD40 ligand                                      | 21                     |
| Co-DEGs      | MPO    | Myeloperoxidase                                  | 7                      |
|              | MMP9   | Matrix metallopeptidase 9                        | 5                      |
|              | CAMP   | Cathelicidin antimicrobial peptide               | 5                      |
|              | LTF    | Lactotransferrin                                 | 5                      |
|              | AZU1   | Azurocidin 1                                     | 4                      |
|              | DEFA4  | Defensin alpha 4                                 | 4                      |
|              | STAT3  | Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 | 3                     |
|              | PECAM1 | Platelet and endothelial cell adhesion molecule 1 | 3                     |

**Abbreviations:** PPI, protein-protein interaction; DEGs, differentially expressed genes; T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus; MI, myocardial infarction.
Although various drugs, adequate glycemic control, and reduction of risk factors had been applied, the complications including atherosclerosis are still inevitable in patients with diabetes mellitus. In addition, previous studies also showed that mortality rates post-MI are much higher in DM patients than the non-DM groups.

Therefore, it is necessary to explore the mechanism and discover the novel target to prevent T2DM-related MI.

In this study, we searched the data sets of MI and T2DM from GEO. The results showed that 18 upregulated DEGs and four downregulated co-expressed DEGs were identified between MI and T2DM. We also performed GO
Table 3 The Top 10 and Bottom 10 Chemical Compounds Identified by L1000 Platform

| Name              | CMap Connectivity Score | Description                                                   |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| IB-MECA           | 99.93                   | Adenosine receptor agonant                                     |
| Hydroxycholesterol| 99.61                   | LXR agonist                                                   |
| Morphothaibaine   | 99.61                   | Adrenergic receptor antagonist                                |
| Azovaquone        | 99.6                    | Mitochondrial electron transport inhibitor                    |
| Tetrahidrocannabinol-7-oic-acid | 99.58        | Anti-inflammatory                                             |
| AG-370            | 99.48                   | PDGFR receptor inhibitor                                      |
| Indapamide        | 99.44                   | Thiazide diuretic                                             |
| Etoricoxir        | 99.37                   | Carnitine palmitoyltransferase inhibitor                     |
| Diphenoxylate     | 99.33                   | Opioid receptor agonant                                       |
| Metixene          | 99.33                   | Acetylcholine receptor antagonist                              |
| PU-H71            | −99.39                  | HSP inhibitor                                                 |
| Sulmazole         | −99.47                  | Adenosine receptor agonant                                     |
| Ketoconazole      | −99.61                  | Sterol demethylase inhibitor                                  |
| Tipifarnib        | −99.61                  | Farnesyltransferase inhibitor                                 |
| Leucodin          | −99.64                  | Melanin inhibitor                                             |
| Niridazole        | −99.75                  | Phosphofructokinase inhibitor                                 |
| PD-169316         | −99.82                  | p38 MAPK inhibitor                                            |
| Escitalopram      | −99.82                  | Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI)                 |
| TUL-XX039         | −99.89                  | Serine/threonine kinase inhibitor                             |
| Pj-34             | −99.93                  | PARP inhibitor                                                |

enrichment and KEGG pathway enrichment analyses, and a PPI network was constructed to identify the top 10 hub genes from among the common DEGs. There are eight core DEGs to demonstrate diagnostic value in MI and T2DM (p<0.05), which may have an important role in early predict the risk of MI in T2DM.

Myeloperoxidase (MPO), lactoferrin (LTF), cathelicidin antimicrobial peptide (CAMP), azurocidin 1 (AZU1), defensin alpha 4 (DEFA4) are expressed in the granules of the neutrophil, which participate in the progress of inflammatory reaction. MPO, an abundant heme-containing peroxidase, is mainly expressed in neutrophils and to a lesser degree in monocytes. In the presence of hydrogen peroxide and halides, MPO catalyzes the reactive oxide species including hypochlorous acid and hypohalous acid, which play an important role in inflammation and oxidative stress. MPO and its oxidative products have been found to be enriched in human atherosclerotic lesions where they co-localized with macrophages. MPO and its end product HOCI could activate the MMPs and inhibit TIMPs, further promoting the reduction in the fibrous cap, and lead to the destabilized atherosclerotic plaque. In a large cohort of patients with chest pain, a single measurement of MPO on admission independently predicted acute MI. Moreover, many studies demonstrated that MPO is significantly associated with follow-up cardiovascular events in MI patients. Furthermore, in a study assessing neutrophil activity in T2DM patients with and without cardiovascular diseases (CVD), researchers found that plasma MPO concentration is elevated in those with CVD, suggesting plasma MPO levels to be an additional biomarker of oxidative stress and cardiovascular risk in T2DM patients. In addition, LTF is a monomeric multifunctional iron-binding glycoprotein, with a single polypeptide chain of about 690 amino acid residues and two sialic acid molecules, which is mainly produced by neutrophils and epithelial cells. It has been reported that LTF displays anti-inflammatory and antioxidant actions. It strongly inhibits cholesteryl ester accumulation from LDL by impairs its binding to macrophages and vascular smooth muscle cells. Though the regulating mechanism of LTF on cardiovascular diseases is not totally clear, clinical study showed that increased baseline concentration of LTF strongly predicted the long-term risk for fatal ischemic heart disease patients with newly diagnosed DM. MPO and LTF are present in different granules, while their behavior as the biomarker of MI is equivalent. The specific granules containing LTF are more readily mobilized than those containing MPO, which implies that LTF may have a wider dynamic concentration range than MPO. Once inside a lesion, neutrophils release granular proteins: CAMP1 and AZU1 stimulate recruitment of
inflammatory monocytes. During the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis, AZU1 is deposited on the endothelium and triggers monocyte arrest and upregulation of endothelial adhesion molecules. A clinical trial showed that the significant positive correlation of AZU1 with the SYNTAX score, Grace score and Killip class in MI patients, suggesting the strong association between inflammation and disease severity. The mechanism remains unclear and demands further investigation. CAMP (also named as LL-37) is produced in the atherosclerotic lesions, where it may function as an immune modulator by activating adhesion molecule and chemokine expression, thus increasing innate immunity in atherosclerosis. The relationship of the CAMP in destabilization of atherosclerotic plaque and MI remains unknown. DEFA was the family of human neutrophil peptides, which was familiar with DEFA1-3. DEFA1-3 has been confirmed as a risk factor of atherosclerosis and coronary artery disease. DEFA4 was encoded as human neutrophil peptides 4, while the role of DEFA4 in atherosclerosis and MI has not been investigated. The role of CAMP, AZU1 and DEFA4 in T2DM or MI remains to be further studied.

Matrix metalloproteinase-9 (MMP9) belongs to the MMP family, which is involved in matrix degradation. MMP9 has been found to be participated in the pathogenesis of diabetes and diabetic complications, including diabetic retinopathy. Moreover, it has been demonstrated that increased MMP9 expression after MI exacerbates ischemia-induced chronic heart failure through regulating autophagic flux. MMP9 expression and activity were increased in the fibrous cap of atherosclerotic plaques, which promotes extracellular matrix (ECM) degradation and enhances inflammation cell infiltration. In addition, MMP9 was reported to influence the stability of plaques via promoting the migration and proliferation of vascular smooth muscle cells (VSMCs). VSMCs can further secrete vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), which plays an important role in neovascularization (a risk factor for plaque instability). Circulating MMP9 has been recognized as a biomarker of predicting the plaque rupture and increased MMP9 expression was related to the leukocyte numbers and left ventricular dimensions and impaired cardiac function. Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) is an 89KD protein and composed of six functional domains. It is a signaling molecule and transcriptional factor that plays important role, which attributes to its genomic action that upregulates genes that anti-apoptotic, pro-angiogenic. STAT3 has been investigated to participate in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis, including contributing to VSMCs proliferation, migration and phenotype transformation. Mitochondrial STAT3 is a regulator of electron transport chain and Ca$^{2+}$ homeostasis and has an effect on the mitochondrial production of oxidative stress, therefore playing a crucial role in atherosclerosis. While whether STAT3 regulates the instability of atherosclerotic plaque remains unclear. STAT3-deficient mice are more susceptible to myocardial ischemia injury, show increased cardiac apoptosis and infarct size and have reduced cardiac function and survival. Moreover, it has been demonstrated that N-acetylcysteine prevented myocardial injury in diabetic mice through Jak2/STAT3. Platelet endothelial cell adhesion molecule-1 (PECAM1 or CD31), one member of the Ig gene superfamily, is composed of six extracellular Ig folds. CD31 was reported to play a protective role in the atherosclerotic plaque. It can limit the unwanted collateral inflammatory damage and regulating leukocyte migration. CD31 can also reduce the leakage and intra-plaque hemorrhage from plaque neo-vessels. Studies showed that the administration of antibodies against CD31 before reperfusion can reduce the infarct size. A study population of cross-sectional analysis that consisted of 420 subjects with T2DM lasting more than 10 years showed that 142 patients with MI and 310 patients with no CVD. There were significant differences of PECAM1 genotype distribution in patients with MI compared with subjects in the control group, which suggest that polymorphism of PECAM1 (C373G) may be a genetic marker of MI in T2DM patients.

Several limitations existed in our study. Firstly, our results in this study mainly derived from microarray analysis that based on gene expression value, which may be not directly equivalent to the protein expression. Assay of polymerase chain reaction and microarray chip may be better for assessing the risk of T2DM related MI. Secondly, validation should be carried out both in vitro and in vivo.

In conclusion, the hub co-DEGs of MPO, MMP9, CAMP, LTF, AZU1, DEFA4, STAT3, and PECAM1 may link T2DM and MI, which might provide an insight into potential novel biomarkers for improving the prognosis of MI related to T2DM.

**Abbreviations**

AUC, area under the curve; AZU1, azurocidin 1; BP, biological processes; CAMP, cathelicidin antimicrobial
peptide; CC, cellular components; CVD, cardiovascular diseases; DEFA4, defensin alpha 4; DEGs, differentially expressed genes; DM, diabetes mellitus; ECM, extracellular matrix; FC, fold change; GEO, Gene Expression Omnibus; GO, Gene ontology; KEGG, Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes; LTF, lactoferrin; MF, molecular function; MI, myocardial infarction; MMP9, matrix metalloproteinase-9; MPO, myeloperoxidase; PECAM1, platelet endothelial cell adhesion molecule-1; PPI, protein-protein interaction; ROC, receiver operating characteristic; STAT3, signal transducer and activator of transcription 3; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor; VSMC, vascular smooth muscle cell.

Data Sharing Statement
All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article.

Funding
This work was supported by the National Nature Science Foundation of China (No. 82000301).

Disclosure
The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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