

**Table S1** Correlation of semiquantitative scores with clinical and laboratory indicators

| Characteristic               | The three-grade of scoring   |                                | The five-grade of scoring    |                                |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                              | Transverse section, <i>r</i> | Longitudinal section, <i>r</i> | Transverse section, <i>r</i> | Longitudinal section, <i>r</i> |
| Age (years)                  | 0.179**                      | 0.151**                        | 0.174**                      | 0.148**                        |
| Duration of disease (months) | 0.190**                      | 0.192**                        | 0.177**                      | 0.183**                        |
| Height (m)                   | 0.009                        | -0.046                         | 0.026                        | -0.009                         |
| Weight (kg)                  | 0.102**                      | 0.080**                        | 0.122**                      | 0.099**                        |
| BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )     | 0.087**                      | 0.097**                        | 0.095**                      | 0.092**                        |
| CRP (mg/L)                   | 0.090**                      | 0.068*                         | 0.101**                      | 0.085**                        |
| Anti-CCP (U/mL)              | -0.048                       | 0.020                          | -0.056                       | -0.006                         |
| RF (IU/mL)                   | -0.031                       | -0.088**                       | -0.037                       | -0.087**                       |
| DAS28                        | 0.102**                      | 0.119**                        | 0.114**                      | 0.145**                        |

\*\**P*<0.01; \**P*<0.05; *r*: correlation coefficient; BMI, body mass index; CRP, C-reactive protein; Anti-CCP, anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibody; RF, rheumatoid factor; DAS28, Disease Activity Score 28.