

**Supplementary Table S1. Detection rate and value (pg/ml) of plasma CRP.**

Category	HC		HC		<i>p</i> value
	Detection rate	Median (range)	Median (range)	Median (range)	
CRP	25/25	1734 (1383-1891)	20/20	1703 (1682-1911)	0.5734

The table includes median protein values (pg/ml) of CRP that could be detected. Detection rates are also shown. Plasma was available for 25 HC cases and 20 pwMS. Data are presented as median (interquartile range). Statistical analysis: Mann-Whitney test. HC: Healthy control; MS: Multiple sclerosis.

**Supplementary Table S2. Comparison of blood parameters in HC and pwMS.**

Parameter	HC	MS	<i>p</i> value
WBC (X10 <sup>3</sup> /μL)	6.1 ± 0.3	5.6 ± 0.5	0.3564
RBC (X10 <sup>6</sup> /μL)	4.8 ± 0.2	4.8 ± 0.2	0.9970
HGB (g/dL)	14.8 ± 0.4	15.2 ± 0.5	0.4811
PLT (X10 <sup>3</sup> /μL)	255.1 ± 16.1	243.7 ± 18.2	0.6384
HCT (%)	40.9 ± 1.2	41.5 ± 1.4	0.7347
MCV (fL)	84.7 ± 0.7	85.9 ± 0.8	0.2510
MCH (pg)	30.1 ± 0.4	31.2 ± 0.5	0.0720
MCHC (g/dL)	35.4 ± 0.3	36.4 ± 0.3	0.0251*

Data are presented as mean ± SEM. HC: Healthy control; HCT: haematocrit; HGB: haemoglobin; MCH: mean corpuscular haemoglobin; MCHC: mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration; MCV: mean corpuscular volume; MS: Multiple sclerosis; PLT: platelet number; RBC: red blood cell number; WBC: white blood cell number. Statistical analysis: Student's *t*-test. \**p*<0.05 versus basal MCHC in HC cases. Sysmex readings were available for 24 HC cases and 20 pwMS.