

**Supplementary Figure 1**. **Flow cytometer analysis of circulating EPCs.** The EPC counts in the peripheral blood were determined by flow cytometry on whole blood samples: (A) CD45+ events on Gate1 region using VIO PRCP700-labeled antibodies against CD45; (B) proportion of CD34+ cells on CD45+-gated events was analyzed in the Gate2 region using FITC-labeled antibodies against CD34; (C) Gate3 region selected CD45dim cells; (D) triple-positive cells were identified by the dual expression of CD34 and CD133 within the CD45dim-gated population. Since EPCs are rare in normal peripheral blood, at least 500 CD34+ events (B) per sample were acquired.