

**Supplementary Table 1. Clinicopathological features of patients with NPC (491 cases)**

<b>Patients features</b>	<b>No. of patients (%)</b>
<b>NPC patients</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	356 (71.34)
Female	143 (28.66)
<b>Age</b>	
≤45	143 (29.12)
>45	348 (70.88)
<b>Clinical stages</b>	
I	5 (1.01)
II	60 (12.22)
III	239 (48.68)
IV	187 (38.09)
<b>T stage</b>	
T1 and T2	215 (43.79)
T3 and T4	276(56.21)
<b>N stage</b>	
N0	58 (11.81)
N1/2/3	433 (88.19)
<b>M stage</b>	
M0	454 (92.46)
M1	37 (7.54)
<b>Noncancerous nasopharyngeal tissues</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	35 (70.0)
Female	15 (30.0)
<b>Age</b>	
≤45	16 (32.0)
>45	34 (68.0)