

## **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

### **Measurement of plasma GDNF**

For the measurement of plasma GDNF levels, a total of 10 mL of blood was drawn from each participant. All blood samples were centrifuged and stored at -80°C immediately after collection. The GDNF concentration was measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) according to the manufacturer's instructions (Wuhan EIAab Science Co., Ltd., China). Each sample was examined in duplicate and the averages are reported. The assay range of the GDNF ELISA kit was 31.2–2,000 pg/mL.